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RECORD SERVICE


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BLACK STUDIES

(1973)

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# Black Studies



National Archives and Records Service  
General Services Administration  
Washington: 1973

**RICHARD NIXON**

*President of the United States*

**ARTHUR F. SAMPSON**

*Administrator of General Services*

**JAMES B. RHOADS**

*Archivist of the United States*

Select Catalog  
of  
National Archives and Records Service  
Microfilm Publications

# Black Studies

National Archives and Records Service  
General Services Administration  
Washington: 1973



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Administrator of General Services

## Preface

Many records of high research value have been reproduced on microfilm as a form of publication by the National Archives and Records Service (NARS). Negative microfilm is retained by NARS and used for making positive prints, sold at moderate price. The chief purposes of the microfilm publication program are to make archival sources more easily accessible to libraries, research centers, and scholars and to ensure that valuable information will not be lost if the records themselves are destroyed.

Although begun in 1940, the microfilm publication program was not firmly established until 1948 when a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation accelerated microfilm production and ensured the continuance of the program through the establishment of a revolving fund. By January 1971 approximately 100,000 rolls of master negative microfilm had been completed. The microfilm publications available for purchase are briefly described in a catalog of NARS microfilm publications in preparation, of which this catalog represents a select portion.

In addition to its extensive microfilm publication program, NARS publishes numerous finding aids that describe extensively the records in the National Archives of the United States, including a comprehensive guide to the records in the National Archives in the United States that is in preparation. A guide devoted to one geographical area—*Guide to Materials on Latin America in the National Archives* (1961)—has been issued. A revised and expanded version is currently in preparation. Reference information papers, which analyze records in NARS on such subjects as transportation, small business, and the Middle East, have been published. Records of the Civil War are described in *Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War* (1962), *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America* (1968), and *Civil War Maps in the National Archives* (1964); those of World War I, in *Handbook of Federal World War Agencies and Their Records, 1917-21* (1943); and those of World War II, in the two-volume guide *Federal Records of World War II* (1950-51). Genealogical records are listed in *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives* (1964). Cartographic records are described in *Guide to Cartographic Records in the National Archives* (1971).

JAMES B. RHOADS

Archivist of the United States

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## Introduction

This catalog is designed to acquaint researchers with the more important material available within the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) microfilm publications program relating to the history of American blacks. It is a selection of such material, not a comprehensive listing. Only material that constitutes an entire roll of film or more has been listed. Records series that relate exclusively or predominantly to blacks are described in considerable detail, with an introduction giving the background of the records and a history of the agency that created the records and a full roll listing. Two series of a more general nature have been included in this catalog, as they contain significant information relating to the topic. In both cases detailed roll listings are not included. The first such series, general records of the Department of State, lists the places and dates of service of black diplomats, followed by a summary of the related records on microfilm. It also lists two other microfilm publications within the diplomatic correspondence that contain material on the suppression of the slave trade and the Southern States' "Negro Seamen's Acts." These records are described in greater detail, with roll lists, in a catalog of NARS microfilm publications that is in preparation. The other series, records of the Bureau of the Census, briefly lists related census records. These records are described in detail, with roll lists, in *Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890* (1971).

This catalog follows the same organizational scheme used in the less detailed catalog of NARS microfilm publications in preparation. No attempt is made in this catalog to cover the records that have not yet been microfilmed. These textual records have been described in Elaine C. Bennett, *Calendar of Negro-Related Documents in the Records of the Committee for Congested Production Areas in the National Archives* (1949), and Paul Lewinson, *A Guide to Documents in the National Archives: For Negro Studies* (1947). Peter Duignan, *Handbook of American Resources for African Studies* (1967), p. 59-98, also describes textual records in the National Archives of the United States. National Archives Select Audiovisual Records leaflet *Negro Art from the Harmon Foundation* (1973) lists representative works of black artists in the collection of photographic copies of artworks donated to the National Archives and Records Service by the Harmon Foundation.

This guide was compiled by Stephen E. Hannestad and Claudine J. Weiher with assistance from Robert Clark and Sara D. Jackson, and the many archivists who wrote pamphlets describing the microfilm publications listed herein.

### *Prices and terms of sale:*

Positive prints of the microfilm listed may be purchased at the prices quoted. Prices are subject to change without advance public notice. The price includes postage or shipping costs on orders to the United States, Mexico, or Canada and on small orders sent to other foreign countries. Orders for more than 40 rolls of microfilm for delivery to other foreign countries are subject to an additional 5 percent shipping charge. There are no discounts for quantity orders.

Orders should be submitted on GSA Form 6784, Microfilm Order (copies appear at the end of this catalog), or on institutional or commercial purchase order forms. To enable efficient processing, orders should include correct microfilm publication number, roll number, and price. Other information, such as title or date, is not needed. Additional microfilm order forms will be furnished on request.

Generally, advance payment must accompany each order. Payments should be made by check or money order, not cash. Payments from outside the United States should be made by international money order or check drawn in U.S. dollars on a bank in the United States. Make payments payable to National Archives Trust Fund (NATS) and mail to Cashier, National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408.

The National Archives can provide enlargements from the microfilm copies. Prices will be furnished on request.

State and local government agencies, educational institutions, and commercial firms may place orders of \$25 or more on an accounts receivable basis. Statements are rendered after shipment on Federal Government billing forms. Accounts more than 90 days overdue are subject to late payment charges of up to 6 percent per year. Purchasers requiring special billing (institutional forms or notarization) must indicate their special requirements when submitting



## INTRODUCTION

orders and must complete special forms before submitting them to GSA for signature. When special billing requirements and forms are not submitted with the original order, there is an additional \$5 service charge.

Correspondence concerning the National Archives microfilm publications program (other than purchase orders) should be addressed to: Publications Sales Branch (NATS), National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408.

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Microfilm may be purchased by the individual roll or by the publication.

# Records of District Courts of the United States

## (Record Group 21)

**Records of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863.**  
M433. 3 rolls. \$21

On the three rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced all the records relating to slavery in the District of Columbia that were kept by the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia. These unbound records include emancipation papers, 1857-63, manumission papers, 1851-63, and case papers relating to fugitive slaves, 1851-63.

On April 16, 1862, Congress passed an act "for the Release of certain Persons held to Service or Labor in the District of Columbia." Section 2 of the act required that owners claiming compensation for freed persons of African descent were to file schedules of their slaves by July 15, 1862. Section 3 provided for the appointment of three commissioners to investigate claims for compensation by former owners of slaves that were freed in the District of Columbia and to decide claims for freedom filed by persons of African descent living in the District.

A supplementary act, July 12, 1862, permitted schedules to be filed by slaves whose former owners had

neglected to file, and it granted freedom to slaves whose owners lived outside the District of Columbia and who were employed within the District with the owners' consent after April 16, 1862.

The emancipation papers consist of these schedules, usually with notes giving dates when certificates of freedom were issued to former slaves. The manumission papers, 1851-63, record the voluntary freeing of slaves by their owners and in general they consist of schedules similar to those in the emancipation papers.

Included in the court's records are a series of papers relating to fugitive slaves, 1851-63. Many of these cases contain only the warrants for arrest and others contain papers relating to proof of ownership.

1. Emancipation papers resulting from the act of  
Apr. 16, 1862, A-L .....\$7
2. Emancipation papers resulting from the act of  
Apr. 16, 1862, M-Y .....7
3. Emancipation papers resulting from the act of  
July 12, 1862; manumission papers, 1857-63;  
and fugitive slave case papers, 1851-63 .....7





## Records of the United States General Accounting Office

### (Record Group 217)

#### **Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-1863. M520. 6 rolls. \$41\***

On the six rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced three bound volumes and a number of unbound records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63. The records were transmitted to the First Auditor of the Treasury Department in 1866 by F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, who, on the recommendation of the First Comptroller of the Treasury Department, had been designated as the agent for the payment of monies awarded by the Board of Commissioners.

An act of April 16, 1862, abolished slavery in the District of Columbia. Under section 3 the President was authorized to appoint a board of three commissioners, who were residents of the District, to examine petitions for compensation from former owners of freed slaves in the District. Pursuant to this act, Daniel R. Goodloe, Horatio King, and Samuel F. Vinton were appointed; in June 1862, however, John M. Broadhead was appointed to replace Vinton. A clerk of the circuit court served as clerk of the Board.

An act of July 12, 1862, provided that petitions could be received from slaves whose owners had not presented petitions for compensation. The petitions received under this act were filed separately from those received under the act of April 16 and are reproduced on roll 6 of this microfilm publication.

The records of the Board include the following items:

(1) A bound volume comprising the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, dated April 28, 1862-January 14, 1863, arranged chronologically by date of session. A name and subject index is at the front of the volume.

(2) A bound volume containing a record of petitions filed under the act of April 16, 1862, dated April 29-July 15, 1862, showing the date the petition was filed, the number of the petition, the name of the petitioner, the names of slaves, and the value of slaves as claimed in the petition. Arranged chronologically and

thereunder by petition number. An index by name of petitioner is at the front of the volume.

(3) A bound docket book kept by the Board, dated April-December 1862, relating to the petitions filed under the act of April 16, 1862, showing the number of the petition, the name of the claimant, and a summary of the action taken. Arranged by petition number. An index is at the front of the volume.

(4) An unbound summary list of amounts awarded to claimants who filed petitions under the act of April 16, 1862, showing the number of the petition, the name of the claimant, the number of servants, the amount awarded by the Board, and the signature of the claimant. Arranged by petition number.

(5) An unbound final report by the Board of Commissioners to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 14, 1863. Accompanying this narrative report are three tabular statements: table A, a list of petitions presented to the Board under the act of April 16, 1862, arranged chronologically, and an alphabetical list of claimants; table B, a list of petitions filed under the act of July 12, 1862, arranged chronologically; and table C, an alphabetical list of claimants who would have been eligible for awards if their petitions had been filed before the deadline.

(6) Unbound petitions filed with the Board of Commissioners pursuant to the acts of April 16, 1862, and July 12, 1862. The petitions filed under the first act were numbered consecutively as they were received by the Board and are arranged numerically. Those filed under the second act were not numbered and are arranged chronologically.

All records of the Board that are listed above, except for the petitions, are reproduced on roll 1 of this microfilm publication. The petitions are reproduced on rolls 2-6.

Because the accounting records relating to the activities of the Board provide no additional information of value, they have not been reproduced in this microfilm publication.

1. Minutes of the meetings, Apr. 28, 1862-Jan. 14, 1863; records of petitions filed, Apr. 29-July 15, 1862; docket book, Apr.-Dec. 1862; summary list of awards; final report of the Board of Commissioners, Jan. 14, 1863 . . . . . \$7

\*Indicates that a pamphlet describing the microfilm publication is available from the Publications Sales Branch.

2. Petitions filed under the act of Apr. 16, 1862:		5. Nos. 601-800 .....	\$7
Nos. 1-200 .....	\$7	6. Nos. 801-966 and petitions filed under the act of	
3. Nos. 201-400 .....	.7	July 12, 1862 .....	.7
4. Nos. 401-600 .....	.7		

## General Records of the Department of State

### (Record Group 59)

#### DIPLOMATS

Most of the ministers resident and consuls general to Haiti from 1869 until 1913 were black diplomats. Ebenezer D. Bassett served in that post from April 1869 until 1877. In September 1877 John Mercer Langston was appointed and served until June 1885. For a brief period in 1883 he was also Chargé d'Affaires for the Dominican Republic. Frederick Douglass served as minister resident to Haiti from June 1889 to July 1891. Henry W. Furniss was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in November 1905, and served until 1913. Several black diplomats also served as consuls at Cap-Haitien, especially Dr. Lemuel W. Livingston, who served in that post from January 14, 1894, until December 17, 1919.

Campbell L. Maxwell served as consul to Santo Domingo from January 11, 1892, until he was appointed consul general in April 1898. He served in that position until July 1, 1904. Archibald H. Grimke also served as consul to Santo Domingo, 1894-98.

Four black diplomats served as minister resident and consul general to Liberia. J. Milton Turner served from March 1, 1871, until May 20, 1878; Henry Highland Garnet, from June 30, 1881, until his death February 13, 1882; O. L. W. Smith, from February 11, 1898, until May 22, 1902; and Ernest Lyon, from March 16, 1903, until June 10, 1910. Two other black diplomats served as secretary of legation at Monrovia. James Robert Spurgeon served from March 4, 1898, until December 10, 1902, when he was replaced by George W. Ellis, who continued in that post until December 1909.

Other black diplomats served in consular posts. James G. Carter was appointed consul at Tamatave, Madagascar, in November 1906 and served in that post until the consulate was transferred to Tananarive, Madagascar, in 1916. He served as consul at Tananarive from July 16, 1916, until March 1, 1927, when he was offered the post of minister resident and consul general to Liberia. He declined that post, and on March 28, 1927, he was assigned as consul at Calais, France. He served there until the consulate was closed in June 1940. After a brief tour as consul at Bordeaux, on November 8, 1940, he was assigned as consul at Tananarive, Madagascar. In January 1941 he was promoted to consul general and served in that rank until his retirement, July 1, 1942.

R. T. Greener served as consul at Bombay, India, from January until May 1898 when he was appointed consul (later commercial agent) at Vladivostok, Russia. William H. Hunt served as a consular officer for 33 years. He was appointed vice consul at Tamatave, Madagascar, March 20, 1899, and promoted to consul August 23, 1901. On November 1, 1906, he was transferred to St. Etienne, France, where he served as consul until his transfer on December 10, 1926, to Guadeloupe, French West Indies. He served from September 25, 1929, until January 7, 1931, as consul at St. Michael, Azores, and then as consul at Monrovia until his retirement in August 1932.

Dr. George H. Jackson served from July 1, 1899, until his transfer to Cognac on June 10, 1908, as the consul at La Rochelle, France. James W. Johnson first began his service as consul on March 29, 1906, at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. Effective March 30, 1907, he became consul at Goree-Dakar, French West Africa, and from June 10, 1908, until January 12, 1909, he served as consul at Corinto, Nicaragua. Christopher H. Payne served as consul at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, from May 1, 1903, until September 30, 1917. J. N. Ruffin served as consul at Asuncion, Paraguay, from October 27, 1897, until August 19, 1907. Mahlon B. Van Horn preceded Christopher Payne as consul at St. Thomas, serving from July 17, 1897, until July 31, 1903. John T. Williams served as consul to Sierra Leone, British Africa, from February 25, 1898, until April 10, 1906.

Herbert R. Wright served as consul at Utila, Honduras, from June 15, 1905, until he was transferred to Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, on June 10, 1908. He served at that post until he retired from the consular service on January 22, 1917.

William J. Yerby served as a consul for over 25 years. Effective June 28, 1906, he was assigned as consul at Sierra Leone. He was transferred in February 1915 to Goree-Dakar, French West Africa. He served there for 10 years, and then was reassigned to La Rochelle, France, where he served from May 14, 1925, until he was transferred to Oporto,



Portugal, effective October 25, 1926. His last consular post was Nantes, France. He served there from July 18, 1930, until March 15, 1932. After a brief tour of duty in Washington, he retired September 30, 1932.

The Department of State was the first major Government department to appoint blacks to positions of importance and one of the few departments to continue blacks in these positions in the period from post-Reconstruction through World War I. In addition to those mentioned, other black diplomats served either briefly or in subordinate positions.

Until 1906 the records of each consulate were maintained separately from the diplomatic correspondence. Most of the despatches from U.S. consuls during that period have been microfilmed, as have been the Instructions from the Department. The records for the period 1906-10, the so-called "numerical file period," have not been microfilmed. Beginning in 1910 the despatches from consular officials were filed with the diplomatic despatches according to a decimal file classification scheme. The despatches relating to internal affairs and political relations have been microfilmed for the period 1910-29.

### *1910-29 Decimal File*

#### France

Includes Dakar: 51t; Madagascar: 51w; and Guadeloupe: 51c.

Internal Affairs. M560. 162 rolls. \$1,115

Political Relations With the United States. M568. 5 rolls. \$33\*

Political Relations With Other States. M569. 7 rolls. \$48\*

#### Haiti

Internal Affairs. M610. 94 rolls. \$576

Political Relations With the United States. M611. 2 rolls. \$12

Political Relations With Other States. M612. 4 rolls. \$24

#### Liberia

Internal Affairs. M613. 34 rolls. \$217\*

Political Relations With Other States (including the United States) M614. 1 roll. \$7\*

#### Portugal

Includes St. Michael, Azores: 53b.

Internal Affairs. M705. 34 rolls. \$178\*

#### Venezuela

Internal Affairs. M366. 32 rolls. \$211\*

Political Relations With the United States. M368. 1 roll. \$5

Political Relations With Other States. M369. 2 rolls. \$14

### *Diplomatic Despatches Before 1906*

Dominican Republic, 1883-1906. M93. 15 rolls. \$90

Haiti, 1862-1906. M82. 47 rolls. \$280

Liberia, 1863-1906. M170. 14 rolls. \$86

### *Consular Despatches Before 1906*

Asuncion, Paraguay, 1844-1906. T329. 6 rolls. \$35

Bahia, Brazil, 1850-1906. T331. 8 rolls. \$46

Cap-Haitien, Haiti, 1797-1906. M9. 17 rolls. \$103

La Rochelle, France, 1794-1906. T394. 8 rolls. \$44

St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, 1805-1906. T350. 17 rolls. \$98

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1837-1906. T56. 19 rolls. \$115

Sierra Leone, British Africa, 1858-1906. T438. 5 rolls. \$29

Tamatave, Madagascar, 1853-1906. T60. 11 rolls. \$70

### *Instructions*

Diplomatic Instructions, 1801-1906. M77. 175 rolls. \$981\*

"Registers of Consular communications sent, 1870-1906," rolls 33-44 of M17. \$83

*Other Diplomatic Records*

**Notes from the British Legation in the United States to the Department of State, 1791-1906. M50. 145 rolls. \$854**

These notes reflect two issues of concern to the British Government in its dealings with America; the suppression of the slave trade and in the period 1822-60 the

Southern States' "Negro Seamen's Acts." To a lesser degree *Notes From United States Ministers to Great Britain, 1791-1906*, M30, also reflects these issues.

**Notes From United States Ministers to Brazil, 1809-1906. M121. 74 rolls. \$441\***

Contains some material relating to the slave trade.





# Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

## (Record Group 101)

### Registers of Signatures of Depositions in Branches of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874. M816. 27 rolls. \$184

This microfilm publication reproduces 55 volumes containing signatures of and personal identification data about depositors in 29 branches of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-74.

The Company was incorporated by an act of March 3, 1865, as a banking institution established in the city of Washington, D.C., for the benefit of freed slaves. The military savings banks at Norfolk, Va., and Beaufort, S.C., were transferred to the Company soon after it was founded. From 1865 through 1870 a total of 33 branches were established, including an office that was opened in New York City in 1866.

In 1874 the Company failed. Until 1881 three commissioners took charge of the effects of the Company, reporting on its financial state to the Secretary of the Treasury. From February 1881 until 1920, the Comptroller of the Currency administered the affairs of the Company.

The information contained in many of the registers is as follows: account number, name of depositor, date of entry, place of birth, place brought up, residence, age, complexion, name of employer or occupation, wife or husband, children, father, mother, brothers, and sisters, remarks, and signature. The early books also contain the name of the former owner and the name of the plantation. In many entries not all the requested data are given. Copies of death certificates have been pinned to some of the entries. In each case the certificate has been filmed immediately after the page that shows the registration of the person's signature.

The registers are arranged alphabetically by name of State, then by name of city in which the branch was located, thereunder by date when account was established, and thereunder by account number. Many numbers are missing, a few are out of numerical order, and in some cases blocks of numbers were not used. Many registers appear to be missing. The volume for Philadelphia, Pa., January 1870-June 1874, contains signatures of officers of societies.

1. Huntsville, Ala., accts. 1-1698;  
Nov. 28, 1865-Aug. 21, 1874.....\$6

2. Mobile, Ala., accts. 777-1567, 1572-2326,  
4287-9173; June 18, 1867-June 29, 1874.....\$8  
3. Little Rock, Ark., accts. 153-1358;  
Feb. 27, 1871-July 15, 1874..... 5  
4. Washington, D.C. (part), accts. 1-1553,  
3500-7197, 7406-9315; July 11, 1865-  
Dec. 30, 1871 ..... 8  
5. Washington, D.C. (part), accts. 1B-456, 14631-  
16303, 20001-21401; May 24, 1872-July 22, 1874;  
and Tallahassee, Fla., accts. 1-887; Aug. 25,  
1866-Jan. 15, 1872..... 7  
6. Atlanta, Ga., accts. 1-4518; Jan. 15, 1870-  
July 2, 1874..... 7  
7. Augusta, Ga., accts. 2167-6701; Nov. 23,  
1870-June 29, 1874..... 7  
8. Savannah, Ga. (part), accts. 1-1137, 1298-  
4947; Jan. 10, 1866-Dec. 17, 1870 ..... 7  
9. Savannah, Ga. (part), accts. 4948-9868;  
Dec. 17, 1870-Oct. 22, 1872..... 7  
10. Savannah, Ga. (part), accts. 9869-14558;  
Oct. 22, 1872-Sept. 1, 1874..... 8  
11. Lexington, Ky., accts. 217-1975; Mar. 21, 1870-  
July 3, 1874; and Louisville, Ky., accts. 1-  
1928, 5122-7336; Sept. 15, 1865-July 8, 1874..... 7  
12. New Orleans, La., accts. 5-1017, 4365-8569;  
June 20, 1866-June 29, 1874; and Shreveport,  
La., accts. 149-1320; Feb. 11, 1871-June 29, 1874 ..... 7  
13. Baltimore, Md., accts. 1-4, 220-6768; May 3,  
1866-June 23, 1874 ..... 8  
14. Columbus, Miss., accts. 9-927; Aug. 1, 1870-  
June 16, 1874; and Natchez, Miss., accts. 1-707;  
Mar. 29, 1870-June 18, 1874 ..... 5  
15. Vicksburg, Miss., accts. 1159-8662;  
July 28, 1868-June 29, 1874 ..... 8  
16. St. Louis, Mo., accts. 223-366;  
Apr. 6-Oct. 8, 1869..... 5  
17. New York, N.Y., accts. 1422-6943;  
Feb. 20, 1871-July 6, 1874..... 8  
18. New Bern, N.C., accts. 1335-4157;  
Nov. 2, 1869-July 25, 1874; Raleigh, N.C.,  
accts. 9-15; Apr. 9-20, 1868; and Wilmington,  
N.C., accts. 1208-1343; Sept. 3-Oct. 30, 1869;  
and 5400-7266; Dec. 8, 1872-Aug. 26, 1873 ..... 7  
19. Philadelphia, Pa., accts. 1-3004; Jan. 7,  
1870-June 26, 1874 ..... 5  
20. Beaufort, S.C., accts. 2732-5989; June 20,  
1868-July 3, 1874..... 7  
21. Charleston, S.C. (part), accts. 1-319,  
2151-3824; Dec. 19, 1865-Dec. 2, 1869 ..... 7  
22. Charleston, S.C. (part), accts. 3833-6626;  
Dec. 4, 1869-Feb. 25, 1871 ..... 6  
23. Charleston, S.C. (part), accts. 6627-11103;  
Feb. 25, 1871-July 2, 1872..... 7  
24. Memphis, Tenn., accts. 1-1995, 2000-6298;  
Dec. 28, 1865-July 1, 1874..... 8

## SELECT MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS: BLACK STUDIES

- |   |     |   |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| 25. Nashville, Tenn., accts. 4174-6189;<br>Dec. 24, 1871-June 23, 1874 .....  | \$6 | Richmond, Va. (part), accts. 232-1582;<br>July 18, 1867-June 20, 1870 .....                 | \$6 |
| 26. Lynchburg, Va., accts. 153-215; July 8-<br>Aug. 22, 1871; Norfolk, Va., accts. 3950-<br>5424; Dec. 4, 1871-June 29, 1874; and |     | 27. Richmond, Va. (part), accts. 1591-3948,<br>4005-7691; June 21, 1870-June 29, 1874 ..... | 8   |

# Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917

## (Record Group 94)

### COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS

**Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served With United States Colored Troops.**  
M589. 98 rolls. \$569\* 16mm

This microfilm publication reproduces an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served with U.S. Colored Troops. Each index card gives the name of a soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling and for service in more than one unit or organization.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer Union soldier may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in a unit from a State. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, a proper record of his service may not have been made; or, if made, it may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and disbandment of troops. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may have been so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier in the original muster rolls, returns, hospital rolls, descriptive books, lists of deserters, and lists of recruits; and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed at the beginning of the index.

1. A-Alk .....	\$6
2. All-Ande .....	.6
3. Andl-Az .....	.6
4. B-Baq .....	.6
5. Bar-Bat .....	.6
6. Bau-Ben .....	.6
7. Beo-Blai .....	.6
8. Blak-Bor .....	.6
9. Bos-Brag .....	.6
10. Brah-Broo .....	.6

11. Bros-Brown, J. ....	\$6
12. Brown, K.-Buf .....	.6
13. Bug-Bus .....	.6
14. But-Cam .....	.6
15. Can-Car .....	.6
16. Cas-Che .....	.6
17. Chi-CI .....	.6
18. Co-Com .....	.6
19. Con-Cot .....	.6
20. Cou-Cr .....	.6
21. Cs-Dau .....	.6
22. Dav-Daz .....	.6
23. De-Dic .....	.6
24. Did-Dov .....	.5
25. Dow-Dy .....	.6
26. E-El .....	.6
27. Em-Fa .....	.6
28. Fe-Fl .....	.6
29. Fo-Fran .....	.6
30. Frap-Gak .....	.6
31. Gal-Gh .....	.6
32. Gi-Gn .....	.6
33. Go-Graw .....	.6
34. Gray-Gref .....	.6
35. Greg-Gy .....	.6
36. H-Ham .....	.6
37. Han-Harris, K .....	.6
38. Harris, L.-Haw .....	.6
39. Hax-Heno .....	.6
40. Henr-Hik .....	.6
41. Hil-Holl .....	.6
42. Holm-Hoz .....	.6
43. Hu-Hy .....	.6
44. I-Jackson, I. ....	.6
45. Jackson, J.-Jay .....	.6
46. Je-Johnson, C. ....	.6
47. Johnson, D.-Johnson, M. ....	.6
48. Johnson, N.-Jom .....	.6
49. Jon-Jont .....	.6
50. Joo-Ke .....	.6
51. Kh-Lah .....	.6
52. Lai-Laz .....	.6
53. Le-Lev .....	.6
54. Lew-Loc .....	.6
55. Lod-Ly .....	.6
56. M-Marr .....	.6
57. Mars-Mat .....	.6
58. Mau-McD .....	.6
59. McE-Mel .....	.6
60. Mem-Mil .....	.6
61. Mim-Moon .....	.6
62. Moor-Morr .....	.6



63. Mors-My	..\$6
64. N-Ni	..6
65. No-O	..6
66. P-Pas	..6
67. Pat-Pes	..6
68. Pet-Pi	..6
69. Pl-Pre	..6
70. Pri-Ram	..6
71. Ran-Ree	..6
72. Ref-Ric	..6
73. Rid-Robe	..6
74. Robi-Rok	..6
75. Rol-Ry	..6
76. S-Scl	..6
77. Sco-Se	..6
78. Sh	..6
79. Si-Sme	..6
80. Smi-Smith, J.	..6
81. Smith, K.-So	..6
82. Sp-Steu	..6
83. Stev-Sty	..6
84. Su-Tax	..6
85. Tay-Thol	..6
86. Thom-Thomp	..6
87. Thoms-To	..6
88. Tr-Ty	..6
89. U-V	..6
90. W-Ward	..6
91. Ware-Wash	..6
92. Wass-Wem	..6
93. Wen-White	..6
94. Whitf-Williams, E.	..6
95. Williams F.-Williams, T.	..6
96. Williams, V.-Wils	..6
97. Wilt-Wo	..6
98. Wr-Z	..6

**Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations. M594, rolls 204-217. \$79\***

This microfilm publication reproduces the compiled records that give the military service histories of units in volunteer Union organizations. The compiled records are card abstracts containing information relating to the stations, movements, or activities of each unit or a part of it, and frequently to its organization or composition, strength and losses, and disbandment. Sometimes the names of commanding officers, the dates the unit was called into service and mustered out, the terms of service, and similar information are included.

The compilation of records of service by military units of volunteer Union organizations was undertaken simultaneously with the compilation of the service records of volunteer Union soldiers. The work was begun in 1890 under the direction of Capt. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. The abstracts were made from original muster rolls and returns in the custody of the War Department and from rolls borrowed from the Second Auditor of the Treasury. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of

comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts were accurate.

Most of the compiled records reproduced on this microfilm publication are arranged alphabetically by State or territory. The remainder are for units that were not limited to any one State or territory; among them are the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Volunteer, and U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps. The records are further arranged by organizational breakdown under each unit.

Most of the compiled records for each organizational unit are in jacket-envelopes bearing the title "Record of Events" and giving the name of the unit. Many of the cards contain abstracts of the record-of-events information as found in original muster rolls and returns. Also included are some cards showing the exact captions of the muster-in and muster-out rolls that were copied and the certifications by the mustering officers verifying the accuracy of the rolls. The jacket-envelopes for a few units contain no documents but do contain references to other units with which these units were merged. In some instances the references concern transfers of documents.

Preceding the jacket-envelopes for the organizational units there sometimes are envelopes containing general notation cards giving information relating to the units. Some of the notations are statements of determinations made by the War Department concerning the service of the units; others contain information that was found in original records other than muster rolls and returns.

There are some card abstracts made from returns that are not in jacket-envelopes. These abstracts were accumulated by the War Department to be interfiled with the regular abstracts but were not interfiled, for one reason or another. The usual reason was that the abstracts made from returns were compiled later than those from muster rolls and in some cases the War Department failed to complete the filing of them. The National Archives has collected all the unjacketed abstracts that could be found for each unit and has filed them immediately after the jacket-envelope containing related abstracts for the unit. A card labeled "Additional Card Abstracts of Records" has been placed at the beginning of each set of unjacketed abstracts to distinguish them from the ones that are in jacket-envelopes.

The records reproduced on this microfilm publication relate to units and not to individual soldiers. While the index to the compiled service records for individual soldiers has been microfilmed (M589—see preceding entry), the individual service records have not been microfilmed.

**204. U.S. COLORED TROOPS:**

First Cavalry through	
Fifth Cavalry	
Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry	
Sixth Cavalry	
First Heavy Artillery	
Third Heavy Artillery through	
Fifth Heavy Artillery	..\$6

205. Sixth Heavy Artillery Eighth Heavy Artillery through Fourteenth Heavy Artillery First Light Artillery Second Light Artillery Independent Battery, Light Artillery First Infantry First Infantry (1 year, 1864) .....\$5	213. Seventy-third Infantry through Eighty-second Infantry .....\$6
206. Second Infantry Third Infantry Third Tennessee Infantry Fourth Infantry through Eleventh Infantry .....6	214. Eighty-third Infantry through Ninety-fifth Infantry .....5
207. Twelfth Infantry through Twenty-first Infantry .....6	215. Ninety-sixth Infantry through One Hundred Fourth Infantry One Hundred Sixth Infantry through One Hundred Eighth Infantry .....5
208. Twenty-second Infantry through Twenty-ninth Infantry Twenty-ninth Connecticut Infantry Thirtieth Infantry through Thirty-third Infantry .....6	216. One Hundred Ninth Infantry through One Hundred Eighteenth Infantry .....5
209. Thirty-fourth Infantry through Forty-third Infantry .....6	217. One Hundred Nineteenth Infantry through One Hundred Twenty-fifth Infantry One Hundred Twenty-seventh Infantry One Hundred Twenty-eighth Infantry One Hundred Thirty-fifth Infantry through One Hundred Thirty-eighth Infantry Capt. Powell's Regiment, Infantry Co. A, Unassigned, Infantry Co. A, Southord Infantry, Pa. (100 days, 1864) Pioneer Co., Cavalry Division, 16 Army Corps (A.D.) Pioneer Co., First Division, 16 Army Corps, Infantry (A.D.) Brigade Band, No. 1 Brigade Band, No. 2 Brigade Band, No. 1, Corps d'Afrique Brigade Band, No. 2, Corps d'Afrique Quartermaster Detachment, Infantry .....5
210. Forty-fourth Infantry through Fifty-second Infantry .....6	
211. Fifty-third Infantry through Fifty-eighth Infantry .....6	
212. Fifty-ninth Infantry through Seventy-second Infantry .....6	

## RETURNS FROM REGULAR ARMY UNITS

According to Army Regulations and War Department General Orders, returns by all regiments were to be submitted monthly directly to the Adjutant General's Office on forms supplied by the Adjutant General's Office.

### Monthly Returns

The purpose of the returns was to report the strength of each regiment, in total numbers of men present, absent, sick, or on extra or daily duty, and to give a specific accounting of officers and enlisted men by name. Eventually required in the returns were an accounting of strength in terms of horses and artillery and any additional information of interest not necessarily connected with strength.

Even though almost every new printing of the form presented some changes, the general format of the return remained reasonably constant throughout the period from 1821 to 1916. The significant changes in physical size and arrangement came in 1904 and 1912. Except for a larger form issued in 1857 and 1858, the size of the form between 1821 and 1862 remained about 23 inches wide by 18 inches long, and then was changed to about 24 inches wide by 20 inches long. In 1904, however, the return assumed the appearance of a booklet, 13 inches wide by 11 inches long, after sheets about 26 inches wide were folded and stapled in the middle. Thus the return could be enlarged by folding and stapling additional sheets rather than by pasting sheets to the bottom or side of the previous form. In 1912 the form was further reduced to 11 inches wide by 8.5 inches long, after the sheets had been folded and stapled in the middle.

The face side of the form contained three sections and, until 1857, provided for total numbers only. These three sections on the face side consisted of (1) a columnar spread across the top that constituted the main, or strength, section, (2) a space for reasons for enlisted men's absences, and (3) a space for the nature of enlisted men's extra or daily duty. The 1857 form required, in addition to the request for reasons, the accounting for absent enlisted men and for extra duty men by name instead of merely totals for each group. In 1873 the "Extra duty enlisted men by name" section was replaced by a "Record of Events" section on Form A.B.O. No. 38.

The reverse of the initial form was reserved for names and, except from 1826 to 1830, contained two sections: (1) an explanation for alterations since the last return for enlisted men and (2) a list of officers present and absent. In the reprinting of Form A.B.O. No. 41, dated April 25, 1914, the accounting for enlisted men by name was completely eliminated. Between 1826 and 1830 the reverse also required the listing of orders received by the regiment, and specifically called for the number of the order, type of order, date, where issued, date of receipt of the order, and an



abstract of the order under a "Remarks" column. Thereafter orders received by the regiment during the month were acknowledged by a letter at the end of the month.

Although the information requested in these various sections remained reasonably constant throughout the period 1821-1916, neither the titles of the sections nor the required specific information remained constant. During some periods the form can only be identified as "in use" rather than by a specific printing date, and the most recent form was not necessarily used by all regiments when reporting. Descriptions of these five sections with their more significant changes are given below.

MAIN SECTION. The 1819 form used in 1821 listed 15 items in a horizontal spread across the face of the form as follows:

1. Station of regimental staff or company
2. Date of the company return used for making the specific regimental return
3. Name of company commander
4. Companies
5. Present for duty with a sublist of ranks
6. Present—Sick with a sublist of ranks
7. Present on extra or daily duty with a sublist of enlisted ranks
8. Present in arrest or confinement with a sublist of enlisted ranks
9. Present—Total
10. Present—Aggregate
11. Absent with a sublist of ranks
12. Present and Absent—Total
13. Present and Absent—Aggregate
14. Present and Absent—Aggregate last month
15. Alterations since last return with sublists: Joined, Discharged, Transferred, Died, Dropped, Deserted, Effective loss, and Effective gain

Under Items 6-8 and 11 spaces were left for inserting the total number of officers. Under Item 4 appeared a list of company letters A-K, which was increased in 1847 to L and M, and later, to N and O. This format provided spaces for filling in numerical totals for all the above-cited horizontal listings and sublists by regiment and company, except for Items 1-3.

Before this main section was completely recast in 1857, a few minor but significant changes occurred in the form. Item 2 was dropped in 1832. Items 9 and 10 were replaced in 1826 by "Number of Commissioned Officers Present" and "Number of Non-commissioned Officers, musicians, artificers, and privates present." Item 11 was also changed in 1826 and required that absentees were now to be totaled under each reason for absence—absent on detached service, absent on furlough, and absent without leave. Item 15 was changed several times: in 1826 two types of reasons for alterations were added—dismissed and resigned; in 1827 the order was reworked; and in 1829 information requested for alterations became much more precise, as shown below:

15. Alterations since last return:
  - Number joined
    - by recruits from general depots
    - by enlisted in regiment
    - by reenlistment
    - by transfer
    - from desertion
  - Number discharged
    - expiration of service
    - for disability
  - Number resigned
  - Number transferred
  - Number died
  - Number deserted
  - Number of recruits required

In 1839 the number of deaths were to be totaled by causes: (1) ordinary, (2) killed in action, (3) died of wounds, and (4) accidental.

In addition to the above changes between 1819 and 1857, the main section was extended to require more information. In 1834 provision was made for reporting the number of blank regimental returns on hand; in 1839, for reporting wounded in action or accidental; and in 1846, for reporting the number of horses serviceable and unserviceable. In 1852 these additional provisions were brought together under the heading of "Memoranda" with sublists: wounded in action, recruits required, horses serviceable, horses unserviceable, horses lost in action, and number of blank regimental returns on hand.

The first use of the term "enlisted men" on the face of the form came in 1857 when the whole main section was completely recast. The next change of such magnitude in the main section was not made until the revision of Form A.G.O. No. 41, in April 1912. The horizontal spread of 1857 listed only 11 headings but with many and different subheadings, as follows:

1. Station
2. Commander's name
3. Regimental Staff and Company
4. Present Commissioned Officers with sublists: for duty, on extra or daily duty, sick, in arrest or suspension, total
5. Present Enlisted Men with same sublists as for officers, except that the enlisted man might be "in arrest or confinement"
6. Absent Commissioned Officers with sublists: on detached service, with leave, without leave, sick, total
7. Absent Enlisted Men with same sublists as for officers, except for the addition of "in arrest or confinement"
8. Where—with the Division, without the Division
9. Present and Absent
  - Commissioned Officers with a sublist of ranks
  - Enlisted Men with a sublist of ranks
10. Alterations since last monthly return
  - Gain
    - Commissioned Officers, with sublists: by promotion or appointment, by transfer
    - Enlisted Men, with sublists: Recruits from depots, enlisted, reenlisted, by transfer, from missing in action, from desertions
    - Aggregate
  - Loss
    - Commissioned Officers, with sublists: resigned or disabled, dismissed, transferred, missing in action, dead in action, dead of wounds, dead of disease
    - Enlisted Men
      - Discharged, with sublists: expiration of service, for disability, by sentence of General Court-Martial, by order, by Civil Authority
      - Transferred
      - Died, with sublists: in action of wounds, of disease
      - Missing in Action
      - Deserted
      - Aggregate
11. Memoranda (same as 1852 except that subheadings were added for reporting pieces of artillery—heavy, field, and mountain)

In 1904 further reasons for loss of enlisted men by death were required: drowned, suicide, murder, or homicide.

On the April 1912 revision of Form A.G.O. No. 41, the main section was titled "Condition of the Regiment at Midnight on the Last day of \_\_\_\_\_," and the quantity of requested information was reduced considerably. In addition to the station and the company letter, only numerical totals were required for the sections listed below:

Officers

Present

For duty, on special duty, sick, in arrest



Absent  
 On detached service, with leave, without leave,  
 sick, in arrest, and without the Department  
 Enlisted Men  
 Present  
 For duty, on extra duty, on special duty, sick  
 in arrest or confinement  
 Absent  
 (Same as for officers)  
 Totals and Aggregates  
 Horses: serviceable, unserviceable, and lost in action

In addition, numerical totals only for the regiment, and not by company, were required for the sections as follows:

Strength (Present and Absent) last returns  
 Officers  
 Enlisted Men  
 Alterations since last monthly return  
 Officers  
 Gain  
 Loss  
 With sublist similar to previous forms  
 Enlisted Men  
 Gain  
 With sublist similar to previous forms  
 Loss  
 With sublist similar to previous forms

**ABSENT ENLISTED MEN SECTION.** This section required the reporting of reasons for absences of noncommissioned officers, musicians, artificers, privates, and matrosses, for which only the total numbers of men by rank and company were stated in the main section. Because no initial instructions were printed, such reasons were given as "stationed at another specific post," "on command in pursuit of deserters," "convict," "in confinement," "on furlough," or "in the custody of Civil Power."

In 1857 the form required an accounting of absent enlisted men by name, which was continued until 1904 when the section was dropped from the return. Also in 1857 the first specific instructions appeared requiring that the nature, commencement, period, and place of absence was to be invariably stated.

**ENLISTED MEN—EXTRA OR DAILY DUTY SECTION.** Initially this section merely provided space for stating the nature of the duty for the totals under Item 7 of the main section, with such section titles as "Non-commissioned Officers, Musicians, artificers, privates, and matrosses on extra or daily duty, accounted for and Non-commissioned Officers, Musicians, Farriers and Blacksmiths, Artificers, and Privates." Because there were initial instructions, the nature of this duty was usually stated as an assignment to the Quartermaster, Ordnance Officer, or Commissary Department.

In 1857 the title of the section became "Enlisted men on extra or daily duty, accounted for by name," and the first specific instructions appeared stipulating that the specific kind of such duty was to be carefully stated.

As early as 1832 there were general instructions, usually numbered notes, which were not necessarily applicable to the specific "Remarks Enlisted men—extra or daily duty" section. In 1832 for the first time were the instructions that "when the Headquarters of the Regiment are changed, or a Company is transferred from one Post to another, the days of departure and arrival shall be recorded on the first subsequent return" to which was added, in 1834, "with such other remarks as may be useful for future reference, and the records of the Adjutant General's Office." These instructions were augmented in 1839 with the request that "marches performed within the month...will be noted and the time specified in the Return" and that "the Colonel will add such general remarks relative to the discipline, service, and movements . . . of the Regiments, or of any particular company, as may be necessary or useful for the records . . ." Added in 1854 were the instructions that "actions in which any portion of the Regiment may have been engaged will be particularly noted."

In 1873 this section was replaced by the "Record of Events" section. The only additional instruction at the time of the change was the request that "the number of horses, either public or private, lost in service together with the date,

place, and circumstances connected with said loss, and the name of the officer responsible for, or owning the property, will be reported."

**ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN SECTION.** The reverse of the form provided space for "Remarks, in explanation of alterations on the face of the return" for listing by name, with date and reason, those enlisted men gained or lost for whom only totals appeared in the main section. Instructions in 1857 required that these men be accounted for "by name and classed in the same order, as on the face of the return."

The first use of the term "enlisted men" on the monthly return appeared in this section in 1834 when the title of the section became "Names of all Enlisted Men required in explanation" of the Alterations since last return. General instructions printed in 1839 and thereafter requested that the name and rank of the officers and soldiers killed or wounded in action, with date and place, were to be accurately noted; such information for enlisted men was invariably reported in this section.

This section was removed from the form in the April 1914 revision, by which time the title had become "Enlisted men who are to be accounted for by name."

**OFFICERS, PRESENT AND ABSENT, ACCOUNTED FOR SECTION.** On the reverse of the form there was also a section in which all commissioned officers were accounted for by name. The first instructions for the "Remarks" column appeared in the March 1827 printing and requested that "the reasons for, and the time (date of the order) of all officers absent from the regiment will be specified." The instruction was further amplified in the January 1829 printing, with the additional notation that "the day on which any officer assumes, or relinquishes a separate command, arrives at, or departs from his post, or company, shall be carefully noted, and his post, or station, will be written opposite to his name." The instruction also required that when the regiment or company was transferred from one post to another "the day of departure and arrival shall be recorded." The January 1830 printing carried further orders that "transfers, resignations, deaths, etc. of Commissioned Officers will be recorded at the foot of the list of Regimental Officers." The instruction was further amplified in 1832 with the request that "the date of all transfers, discharges, furloughs, deaths, desertions, apprehensions, etc. will be accurately noted." This section was also used for fulfilling the general instructions in 1839, which requested that the name and rank of the officers killed or wounded in action, with date and place, be accurately noted.

The only other significant change in this section was the instruction in the 1897 printing, which requested that "officers of other organizations, serving with or attached to the regiment for duty, will be borne in red ink at the foot of the list of officers, with date and place, and in the later case, the cause." Names of veterinary surgeons were also to be reported in red ink at the bottom of the list of officers, but they were to be excluded from the strength of the regiment on the face of the return.

**SUMMARY.** Some of the information obtainable from the regimental monthly return is as follows:

- Names of regimental commanders
- Names of all officers and reasons for loss or gain, if applicable
- Names of company commanders
- Stations of the regiment and companies
- Names of absent enlisted men, 1857-1904, and reason for absence
- Names of enlisted men lost and gained, 1821-1914, and reasons
- Names of enlisted men on extra or daily duty, 1857-1873, and nature
- Record of events type of information, 1832-1916
- Total strength by rank of both officers and enlisted men, 1819-57
- Total strength by company of horses, 1846-1916
- Total strength by company of artillery pieces, 1857-1912

### Other Records and Returns

Most of the records reproduced in the following three microfilm publications are the regimental or post monthly returns, but the Adjutant General's Office filed other records and returns with the monthly returns. Brief descriptions of the other six sets of records that were filed with the returns and that are reproduced in the publication are given below.

**"HISTORICAL DATA" FILE.** At the beginning of the series of monthly returns for some regiments the Adjutant General's Office filed correspondence and related records that it referred to as "Historical Data" or "Miscellaneous Data" of a specific regiment. The correspondence dates primarily from the 1920's and 1930's, is mainly between the



Adjutant General's Office and the regimental commanders, and relates chiefly to records of events, numbers of killed and wounded, and troop movements. Another example is the correspondence between the Adjutant General's Office and the Detroit Public Library relating to early documents of the 2d Infantry. Examples of other records in this file are rosters, histories, and lists of stations of companies.

**ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY RETURNS OF ALTERATIONS AND CASUALTIES.** Army Regulations required that annual returns of casualties, by regiments, were to be transmitted by the regiment at the close of every year. Although Army Regulations carried this regulation until the revision of 1881, it had been declared no longer necessary by the Adjutant General in 1870.

Usually the annual return was a recapitulation of the totals appearing under Alterations in the main section of the monthly returns for the year. Forms were issued by The Adjutant General for this purpose, and until 1833 they were called "Return of Casualties incident to the Rank and File." By 1864 this information was required on a quarterly basis.

The form contained a horizontal spread across the face of the return comparable to the "Alterations" part of the horizontal spread in the main section of the monthly return. The chief difference between the two spreads from 1828 to 1833 was the inclusion of spaces in the annual return for supplying additional information as follows:

- Number discharged from the regiment for pension,
  - by obtaining substitute, being minors, and
  - by sentence of general court-martial
- Number tried for desertion
- Number convicted of desertion
- Number pardoned after sentence
- Total number tried by general court-martial
- Total number tried by regimental court-martial
- Aggregate number tried by general and regimental courts-martial

Additional information supplied on the annual return in 1864 and not provided on the monthly return was that the number of commissioned officers gained by appointment were designated as those (1) from the Military Academy and (2) from Civil Life; the number of enlisted men gained from desertion were designated as those (1) apprehended from desertion and (2) surrender from desertion; and the number of enlisted men lost by discharge were, in addition to the designations appearing on the monthly return, also designated as those (1) discharged for pension and (2) discharged by order or letter. A "Memoranda" section also appeared in the annual return, requesting information as follows:

- Wounded: In Action; Accidental
- By Military Authority:
  - Number tried for desertion
  - Number convicted of desertion
  - Number restored to duty without trial (for desertion)
  - Number pardoned after sentence (for desertion)
  - Number tried by general court-martial
  - Number tried by regimental court-martial
  - Aggregate number tried by general, regimental, or garrison court-martial
- By Civil Authority:
  - Number arrested
  - Number returned to service
  - Number tried
  - Number acquitted
  - Number convicted

At the extreme right of the horizontal spread on all forms was a "Remarks" column with instructions, augmented throughout the years, which in effect requested an annual record of events; by 1864 a block under the "Remarks" column was titled "Record of Events."

A part of the face on all forms was reserved for designating the posts and stations at which deaths, desertions, apprehensions, and surrenders occurred. On some of the 1864 forms there was a "Remarks" section for listing the name of each enlisted man, with information such as date, place, and cause of alteration.

**MONTHLY RETURNS OF BATTALIONS, COMPANIES, AND DETACHMENTS.** These returns were required by War Department Order of April 7, 1826, which instructed all field and company officers when absent from their regiment or company on detached service to report as often as the nature of their details was changed. The substance of this instruction was reiterated in General Order No. 49, August 30, 1828, which required that when any officer was absent on detached service, or the commanding officer of any company or detachment was absent from the regiment, a special report was to be made to the commanding officer of the regiment as often as the station changed. This report was to enable the Colonel to include the information in his regimental return for the same month.

Not until 1846 do Army Regulations or General Orders suggest the submission of separate returns directly to the Adjutant General's Office by companies, battalions, and detachments operating independently of the regiment, nor do they suggest such independent submissions after 1861, with two exceptions: (1) all Army Regulations since 1857 had ordered the submission of monthly returns by detached brigades, amended in 1861 to include all detached commands, "during campaigns," and (2) General Order No. 72, June 21, 1898, instructed the commanding officers of all detached or independent batteries, troops, or companies in the field to forward a monthly company return directly to the Adjutant General's Office.

Between the years 1846 and about 1861, again after 1898, and during periods of campaigns there are many returns for battalions, companies, and detachments filed with the regimental monthly returns. There are, however, a few scattered returns for the period before 1846. For the most part the information contained on the returns of the independent units has been consolidated in the regular regimental monthly return. Despite this consolidation, the independent unit returns of the battalions, companies, and detachments have been reproduced in this microfilm publication for three reasons: (1) they are an integral part of the Adjutant General's Office file of regimental monthly returns, (2) frequently there are more details under "Remarks" in the independent unit returns, and (3) occasionally, for unexplained reasons, there is a difference in or an absence of information in the regimental return.

The Adjutant General's Office issued to the companies, as it did to the regiments, a printed form with instructions for preparing the return. The Adjutant General appears never to have issued a form for independent battalions or detachments until Form M.S.O. No. 30, printed in 1904, was issued for "Troop, Battery, Company, or Detachment Monthly Returns." Consequently independent units, other than companies, used any available form—regimental, company, or post return form.

**SPECIAL FIELD RETURN AND FIELD RETURN.** These returns were submitted by regiments, independent companies, and detachments. Form A.G.O. No. 26, Special Field Return, printed in February 1896, was set up to enable separate commands to carry out the instructions of Army Regulations of 1895, paragraph 795, which required that, whenever the strength of a separate command was temporarily or permanently increased or diminished by moving any organization, "the commanding officer will immediately inform the Adjutant General of the Army direct, designating the organization moved, number and names of officers, and strength in men, animals, and arms."

When the Special Field Return was replaced by the Field Return in 1904, instructions on the form stated that it was to be used as a Daily Field Return, a Special Field Return, or a Trimonthly Field Return, as required. More precisely, the instructions stated that the form was to "be used upon the establishment or evacuation of a post or temporary camp, and upon the temporary or permanent increase or reduction of a garrison," and one copy was to be forwarded at once directly to The Adjutant General. Further instructions were that "in active campaign this form will serve as the 'Trimonthly Return' and will be used for regiments, independent companies, posts, districts, brigades." In such cases the form was to be made out in triplicate on the 10th, 20th, and last day of each month; one copy was to be sent directly to The Adjutant General, one copy was to be sent to the immediate commander, and one copy was to be retained.

**RETURN OF CASUALTIES.** General Order No. 169, October 27, 1862, required that "after every battle, skirmish, or other engagement" every regiment or other detached part of a regiment was to promptly forward to the Adjutant General's Office a correct return of persons killed, wounded, and missing. This requirement was further clarified by the Army Regulations of 1863, paragraph 465, which stated that, "after any action or affair, a return of the killed, wounded, and missing will be made, in which the name, rank, and regiment of each officer and soldier will be specified, with such remarks and explanations as may be requisite for the records of the Department of War, or be necessary to establish the just claims of any individual who may have been wounded, or of the heirs and representatives of any killed in action (taking care to specify the nature of the wound, the time and place of its occurrence, the company, regiment, or corps, and the name of the Captain, Colonel, or other commanding officer)."

The first printed form for this return, which appeared in April 1898 and was titled "Return of Casualties," provided space for "Record of Events" in addition to the other required information. Until the form was printed, this return was usually prepared in manuscript, but occasionally other forms, such as the "Morning Report" form, were adapted for use as a "Casualty Return."



TRIMONTHLY FIELD RETURN. A few copies of this return were filed with the regimental monthly returns. Inasmuch as information requested on this form was already being submitted directly to the Surgeon General, and the information requested was not desired by the Adjutant General's Office, the use of this form was abolished by General Order No. 45, March 13, 1899, without reference to the initial instructions that required the submission of the return.

**Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June 1821-December 1916. M665, rolls 245-261, 293-296. \$123\***

In the reorganization of the Infantry specified in War Department General Order No. 92, November 23, 1866, four new regiments, the 38th-41st Infantry Regiments, were created, to be composed of black men. War Department General Order No. 17, March 15, 1869, provided for the reduction of the number of regiments from 45 to 25. The old 38th and 41st were combined to form the 24th, and the old 39th and 40th formed the 25th. Throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century the two regiments served at various posts in the West, often assisting in the Indian Wars.

*Twenty-fourth Infantry:*

245. Dec. 1866-Dec. 1872 .....	\$6
246. Jan. 1873-Dec. 1880 .....	.6
247. Jan. 1881-Dec. 1889 .....	.6
248. Jan. 1890-Dec. 1897 .....	.6
249. Jan. 1898-Dec. 1899 .....	.6
250. Jan. 1900-Dec. 1901 .....	.6
251. Jan. 1902-Dec. 1905 .....	.6
252. Jan. 1906-Dec. 1909 .....	.7
253. Jan. 1910-Dec. 1916 .....	.7

*Twenty-fifth Infantry:*

254. Jan. 1867-Dec. 1873 .....	.6
255. Jan. 1874-Dec. 1882 .....	.6
256. Jan. 1883-Dec. 1890 .....	.5
257. Jan. 1891-Dec. 1897 .....	.5
258. Jan. 1898-Dec. 1900 .....	.6
259. Jan. 1901-Dec. 1903 .....	.5
260. Jan. 1904-Dec. 1908 .....	.7
261. Jan. 1909-Dec. 1916 .....	.7
293. Thirty-eighth Infantry, Feb. 1867-Dec. 1869 .....	.5
294. Thirty-ninth Infantry, Oct. 1866-Apr. 1869 .....	.5
295. Fortieth Infantry, Nov. 1866-Apr. 1869 .....	.5
296. Forty-first Infantry, Dec. 1866-Dec. 1869 .....	.5

**Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1833-1916. M744, rolls 87-102. \$97\***

The Ninth and Tenth Cavalries were formed soon after the Civil War. The initial troops were recruited from the U.S. Colored Troops, which were volunteer units during the Civil War, and from recently freed slaves in the Southern States. While all the enlisted men were blacks, except for a very brief period in 1866-67 and the period when Lt. Henry O. Flipper served in the Tenth Cavalry, all officers were white. Both regiments had a distinguished record, serving in the West throughout the Indian Wars. During the Indian Wars 13 black soldiers earned the Medal of Honor.

*Ninth Cavalry:*

87. Oct. 1866-Dec. 1872 .....	\$.5
88. 1873-80 .....	.6
89. 1881-87 .....	.6
90. 1888-95 .....	.5
91. 1896-1900 .....	.6
92. 1901-4 .....	.6
93. 1905-9 .....	.7
94. 1910-16 .....	.7

*Tenth Cavalry:*

95. Sept. 1866-Dec. 1872 .....	.6
96. 1873-80 .....	.6
97. 1881-88 .....	.5
98. 1889-96 .....	.6
99. 1897-1900 .....	.6
100. 1901-4 .....	.6
101. 1905-9 .....	.7
102. 1910-16 .....	.7

**Returns From U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916. M617. Selected rolls.\***

This microfilm publication consists of 1,550 rolls in two alphabetical sequences. On rolls 1-1491, each roll contains returns for a single post, although rolls for a specific post may be filmed on more than one roll. On rolls 1492-1550, where the number of returns is less than 20, returns for several posts are reproduced on each roll. The pamphlet describing this microfilm publication gives complete details of the contents of each roll. The rolls listed below are only a portion of the rolls that might relate to black soldiers. They were selected because of citations in various histories of the U.S. Colored Troops.

The 38th and 41st Infantries were stationed in New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana; the 39th in North Carolina, and the 40th in Louisiana. The 24th and 25th Infantries were stationed in Texas until 1880, when the 25th moved to Dakota and later to Montana. The 9th and 10th Cavalries after being organized in New Orleans, served in the Indian Wars in the Southwest. During the 1890's the 9th served in Utah and Nebraska, the 10th in Montana. All four regiments served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

33. Apache, Fort, Ariz., May 1870-Dec. 1877 .....	\$.7
34. Apache, Fort, Ariz., Jan. 1888-Dec. 1903 .....	7
35. Apache, Fort, Ariz., Jan. 1904-Dec. 1916 .....	7
42. Assiniboine, Fort, Mont., May 1879-Dec. 1891 .....	6
43. Assiniboine, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1892-Dec. 1903 .....	6

44. Assiniboine, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1904-May 1911 .....	\$6	415. Grant, Fort, Ariz., Jan. 1875-Dec. 1894 .....	\$8
76. Baracoa, Cuba, Mar. 1899-Aug. 1900 .....	5	416. Grant, Fort, Ariz., Jan. 1895-Oct. 1905 .....	6
87. Bayard, Fort, N. Mex., Aug. 1866-Dec. 1879 .....	6	429. Griffin, Fort, Tex., July 1877-May 1881 .....	6
88. Bayard, Fort, N. Mex., Jan. 1880-Dec. 1894 .....	7	435. Hale, Fort, S. Dak., July 1870-July 1884 .....	6
89. Bayard, Fort, N. Mex., Jan. 1895-Dec. 1905 .....	6	453. Harker, Fort, Kans., Oct. 1864-Mar. 1873 .....	6
90. Bayard, Fort, N. Mex., Jan. 1906-Dec. 1916 .....	7	459. Harrison, William Henry, Fort, Mont., Sept. 1895-Dec. 1905 .....	6
92. Beale's Springs, Camp, Ariz., Mar. 1871-Mar. 1874 .....	5	460. Harrison, William Henry, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1906-Sept. 1914 .....	7
116. Bliss, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1854-Dec. 1871 .....	6	469. Hays, Fort, Kans., Nov. 1865-Dec. 1875 .....	6
117. Bliss, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1872-Dec. 1885 .....	6	470. Hays, Fort, Kans., Jan. 1876-Oct. 1889 .....	7
118. Bliss, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1886-Dec. 1897 .....	6	572. Keogh, Fort, Mont., Sept. 1876-Dec. 1886 .....	6
119. Bliss, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1898-Dec. 1908 .....	6	573. Keogh, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1887-Dec. 1897 .....	6
120. Bliss, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1909-Dec. 1916 .....	7	574. Keogh, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1898-July 1912 .....	7
151. Brown, Fort, Tex., May 1846-Feb. 1861 .....	6	578. Key West and Key West Barracks, Fla., Jan. 1898-Dec. 1907 .....	6
152. Brown, Fort, Tex., June 1866-Dec. 1886 .....	7	599. Larned, Fort, Kans., Nov. 1859-Dec. 1869 .....	6
153. Brown, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1887-Dec. 1902 .....	7	600. Larned, Fort, Kans., Jan. 1870-July 1878 .....	6
154. Brown, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1903-Sept. 1915 .....	5	611. Leavenworth, Kans., Jan. 1851-Dec. 1869 .....	8
166. Caibarien Barracks, Cuba, Apr. 1899-Feb. 1909 .....	5	687. McKavett, Fort, Tex., Mar. 1852-Dec. 1872 .....	6
182. Cardenas and Cardenas Barracks, Cuba, Dec. 1898-Feb. 1909 .....	5	688. McKavett, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1873-June 1883 .....	6
207. Chickamauga, Ga., Sept. 1895-Aug. 1910 .....	6	764. Meade, Fort, S. Dak., Aug. 1878-Dec. 1891 .....	7
210. Cienfuegos, Cuba, Feb. 1899-Jan. 1909 .....	5	765. Meade, Fort, S. Dak., Jan. 1892-Dec. 1903 .....	7
214. Clark, Fort, Tex., Dec. 1866-Dec. 1881 .....	7	766. Meade, Fort, S. Dak., Jan. 1904-Dec. 1916 .....	7
215. Clark, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1882-Dec. 1892 .....	7	782. Missoula, Fort, Mont., June 1877-Dec. 1893 .....	7
216. Clark, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1893-Dec. 1905 .....	7	783. Missoula, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1894-Dec. 1908 .....	7
217. Clark, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1906-Dec. 1916 .....	7	784. Missoula, Fort, Mont., Jan. 1909-Dec. 1916 .....	6
241. Concho, Fort, Tex., Dec. 1867-Dec. 1878 .....	6	985. Quitman, Fort, Tex., Sept. 1858-Jan. 1877 .....	6
242. Concho, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1879-June 1889 .....	6	988. Randall, Fort, S. Dak., June 1856-Dec. 1866 .....	6
247. Constancia, Cuba, Nov. 1906-Dec. 1908 .....	5	989. Randall, Fort, S. Dak., Jan. 1867-Dec. 1879 .....	7
275. Cummings, Fort, N. Mex., Oct. 1863-Sept. 1866 .....	6	990. Randall, Fort, S. Dak., Jan. 1880-Nov. 1892 .....	6
297. Davis, Fort, Tex., Sept. 1854-Dec. 1878 .....	7	1008. Richardson, Fort, Tex., June 1866-May 1878 .....	6
298. Davis, Fort, Tex., Jan. 1879-June 1891 .....	6	1028. Robinson, Fort, Nebr., Apr. 1874-Dec. 1884 .....	6
319. Dodge, Fort, Kans., Jan. 1866-Oct. 1882 .....	7	1029. Robinson, Fort, Nebr., Jan. 1885-Dec. 1894 .....	6
335. Duncan, Fort, Tex., Mar. 1849-Mar. 1861 .....	6	1030. Robinson, Fort, Nebr., Jan. 1895-Dec. 1906 .....	7
336. Duncan, Fort, Tex., Mar. 1868-Aug. 1883 .....	7	1031. Robinson, Fort, Nebr., Jan. 1907-Dec. 1916 .....	7
414. Grant, Fort, Ariz., Oct. 1865-Dec. 1874 .....	6	1156. Shaw, Fort, Mont., July 1867-Dec. 1875 .....	6

## SELECT MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS: BLACK STUDIES

- |  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| 1157. Shaw, Fort, Mont.,<br>Jan. 1876-Dec., 1882 ..... | \$6 | 1229. Stockton, Fort, Tex.,<br>Apr. 1859-Dec. 1874 .....     | \$7 |
| 1158. Shaw, Fort, Mont.,<br>Jan. 1883-Sept. 1891 ..... | 6   | 1230. Stockton, Fort, Tex.,<br>Jan. 1875-June 1886 .....     | 6   |
| 1173. Sill, Fort, Okla.,<br>Mar. 1869-Dec. 1875 .....  | 5   | 1243. Supply, Fort, Okla.,<br>Nov. 1868-Dec. 1879 .....      | 6   |
| 1174. Sill, Fort, Okla.,<br>Jan. 1876-Dec. 1887 .....  | 7   | 1244. Supply, Fort, Okla.,<br>Jan. 1880-Dec. 1894 .....      | 7   |
| 1175. Sill, Fort, Okla.,<br>Jan. 1888-Dec. 1900 .....  | 7   | 1265. Thomas, Camp, Ariz.,<br>Aug. 1876-Jan. 1891 .....      | 7   |
| 1176. Sill, Fort, Okla.,<br>Jan. 1901-Dec. 1908 .....  | 6   | 1339. Wallace, Fort, Kans.,<br>Mar. 1866-Dec. 1873 .....     | 6   |
| 1177. Sill, Fort, Okla.,<br>Jan. 1909-Jan. 1917 .....  | 7   | 1340. Wallace, Camp, Luzon, P.I.<br>Jan. 1874-May 1882 ..... | 6   |



## GENERAL RECORDS

**The Negro in the Military Service of the United States, 1639-1886. M858. 5 rolls. \$33\***

This microfilm publication reproduces a compilation of copies of official records, State papers, and historical extracts relating to the military status and service of Negroes from the Colonial period through 1886, prepared under the direction of Brig. Gen. Richard C. Drum, Adjutant General, and by Elon A. Woodward,

Chief of the Colored Troops Division of the Adjutant General's Office, 1888. The documents are arranged chronologically.

1. 1639-1862 .....	\$7
2. 1863 .....	7
3. 1864 .....	7
4. 1865-77 .....	6
5. Treatment and exchange of prisoners of war, 1862-65; Regular Army, 1866-86 .....	6



## **Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)**

### **(Record Group 153)**

#### **Records Relating to the Army Career of Henry Ossian Flipper, 1873-1882. T1027. 1 roll. \$8**

This microfilm publication reproduces records relating to the Army career of Henry Ossian Flipper, the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. After graduation he served with the 10th Cavalry, Department of Texas. Most records relate to his court-martial for embezzlement of public funds and his petition to Congress to reinstate him in the service. Other records include his appointment papers to the Academy.

Henry O. Flipper was born a slave on March 21, 1856. He was purchased with his mother in 1859 by his father. He was tutored by a slave mechanic and later by the wife of an ex-Confederate officer before attending the schools of the American Missionary Association. He was a freshman at Atlanta University when Congressman J. C. Freeman appointed him to the U.S. Military Academy. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy Flipper was assigned to frontier duty in Texas. He was dismissed from the service on June 30, 1882, and from 1883 until 1891 he worked in northern Mexico as a

surveyor and engineer. In 1892 the town of Nogales, Ariz. Terr., employed him to present their case before the Court of Private Land Claims. As a result of his success in this case, he was appointed special agent, Department of Justice, Court of Private Land Claims. In the course of his 11 years as special agent he translated, arranged, and the Justice Department published, a collection of Spanish and Mexican laws dating from the 16th century to 1853, which were used by the land courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. After his service as special agent he returned to work as a civil engineer until 1921. When Senator Albert Fall became Secretary of the Interior in 1921, he appointed Flipper as an assistant with the International Alaskan Engineer Commission. From 1923 until 1930 he worked for an oil company in Venezuela. While there he compiled a translation of Venezuelan laws relating to hydrocarbons and other combustible minerals.

In 1930 Flipper retired to Atlanta where he lived with his brother, Bishop Joseph Flipper of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He died in Atlanta on May 3, 1940, at the age of 81.



## **Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Record Group 105)**

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, often referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). Congress assigned to the Bureau responsibilities previously shared by military commanders and by agents of the Treasury Department, which included supervision of all affairs relating to refugees and freedmen and the custody of all abandoned or confiscated lands and property. The act also provided that the Bureau be headed by a Commissioner, appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

In May 1865 the President appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard as Commissioner. Howard, who served until the Bureau was discontinued in 1872, established his headquarters at Washington, D.C. Although the size and organization of the Bureau headquarters varied from time to time, Howard's staff consisted primarily of an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Chief Medical Officer, a Chief Quartermaster, a Chief Disbursing Officer, and officers in charge of the Claims Division, the Education Division, and the Land Division.

The Bureau's operations were confined principally to the former Confederate States, the Border States, and the District of Columbia. Assistant commissioners supervised the work of the Bureau in the districts into which the States were divided. Officers subordinate to the assistant commissioners carried out the policies of the Bureau within the districts.

During the years of its greatest activity, the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau resembled, in many ways, the work of later Federal social agencies. In addition to supervising the disposition of abandoned or confiscated lands and property, Bureau officers issued rations, clothing, and medicine to destitute refugees and freedmen. They established hospitals and dispensaries and supervised tenements and camps for the homeless. Bureau officers and members of benevolent organizations cooperated in establishing schools, operating employment offices, and dispensing relief. Additionally, Bureau officers supervised the writing of labor contracts and terms of indenture, registered marriages, listened to complaints, and generally were concerned with improving almost all aspects of the freedman's life. In March 1866 the Bureau assumed the function of helping black soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearages.

By the beginning of 1869 most of the work of the Freedmen's Bureau had come to an end. An act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), provided that on January 1, 1869, the Commissioner was to withdraw the Bureau officers from the States and discontinue the functions of the Bureau, except those relating to education and to the collection and payment of claims. Effective June 30, 1872, the Bureau was abolished by an act of June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366). All unfinished work, which by this time related chiefly to the collection and payment of claims, was transferred to the Freedmen's Branch that was established in the Adjutant General's Office.

### **Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. M742. 7 rolls. \$50\***

On the seven rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced seven volumes of letters sent, six volumes of endorsements sent, one volume of circulars issued, and one volume of special orders issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-72. Also included are fourteen volumes of indexes. The records relate to the general operations of the Bureau.

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Adjutant General's Office. Clerks in the Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parentheses. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

#### **Series Listing and Remarks**

**LETTERS SENT.** The seven volumes of letters sent are dated from 1865 to 1872 and contain copies of letters,



telegrams, and circular letters sent by Commissioner Howard and his Assistant Adjutant General. Also included are copies of Howard's annual reports to the President.

Three of the volumes also contain other types of records as follows: in volume 2, pages 500-507, a small series of letters of appointment, July-December 1866; in volume 3, some letters of appointment that are interfiled with other letters sent; and in volume 7, some endorsements sent.

The documents in the letter books are generally arranged in chronological order. In the first three volumes each letter, telegram, circular letter, or report was assigned a number. In many volumes there are fractions in the left margin of the pages. The numerator is the number of the page in the same volume on which a preceding letter to the same correspondent appears, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent letter. Frequently noted in the letter books is the file number of the letter received or the number of the order issued that relates to the subject of the letter.

In this microfilm publication the index book is filmed before the related volume of letters sent. There are name and subject index books to volumes 1-4 and name index books to volumes 5-7. Volume 5 also has a subject index that is bound at the front of the volume. The name and subject indexes are arranged alphabetically, with the names listed first. In the index books to volumes 1 and 2 the number after the name refers to the page in the letter book, and the number after the subject refers to the file number of the letter. This practice is also true for volume 3, except that the number after the subject refers to either the file number or the page number.

A series of press copies of letters sent is not included in this microfilm publication. Most of the press copies relate mainly to requests for transportation or applications for positions in the Bureau.

From October 1867 to June 1872 letters of appointment and revocation were kept as a separate series and are not included in this microfilm publication.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** According to the record-keeping practice of the day, the Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Commissioner or the Assistant Adjutant General wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books, with a summary of the contents of the related incoming communication on which the statement had been written.

The six volumes of endorsements sent are dated from May 22 to September 28, 1865, and from August 25, 1866, to January 4, 1871. Between September 29, 1865,

and August 24, 1866, the endorsements were copied into a series of registers of letters received, which will be reproduced in a forthcoming microfilm publication. After January 1871 the endorsements were copied into the volumes of letters sent or letter books.

The endorsements sent are generally arranged in chronological order. In the left margin of the pages in the endorsement books is the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent.

There are name index books to all the endorsement books except volume 2, which has a name index bound at the front of the volume. The two subject indexes are a subject index book to volume 4 of the endorsement books and a subject index bound at the front of volume 5.

**CIRCULARS ISSUED.** The single volume of circulars issued, 1865-69, contains instructions relating to the organization and operation of the Bureau. The circulars are arranged by year and thereunder numerically. At the beginning of the volume is a list of officers to whom the circulars were issued. The subject index book, which refers only to the circulars issued in 1865, has been filmed before the volume of circulars. Also included in the volume are some unnumbered circular letters that are not duplicated in the letter books.

**SPECIAL ORDERS ISSUED.** The single volume of special orders, 1865-72, relates mainly to personnel, although there are a few orders that pertain to the general administration of the Bureau. The orders are arranged by year and thereunder numerically with the exception of those for the period 1870-71, which are arranged in one numerical series. In the left margin are the names of the people mentioned in the orders. In the name and subject index at the beginning of the volume, the number after the name refers to the page in the volume, and the number after the subject refers to the number of the special order.

The volume also contains the special field orders issued by Commissioner Howard from October 19 to November 6, 1865; they are placed between Special Orders 117 and 118.

1. Name and subject index (65) to vol. 1 of letters sent; letters sent, vol 1 (64), May 16-Dec. 30, 1865; name index (85) to vol. 1 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 1 (84), May 22-Sept. 28, 1865 .....\$6
2. Name and subject index (n.n.) to vol. 2 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 2 (66), Jan. 1-Dec. 29, 1866; endorsements sent, vol. 2 (86), Aug. 25, 1866-Mar. 18, 1867 ..... 7
3. Name and subject index (68) to vol. 3 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 3 (67), Jan. 2-Sept. 30, 1867; name index (88) to vol. 3 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 3 (87), Mar. 18-Sept. 27, 1867 ..... 8



4. Name and subject index (70) to vol. 4 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 4 (69), Oct. 1, 1867-Aug. 31, 1868; name index (90) to vol. 4 of endorsements sent; subject index (91) to vol. 4 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 4 (89), Sept. 27, 1867-Aug. 18, 1868 .....\$8
5. Name and subject index (72) to vol. 5 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 5 (71), Sept. 1, 1868-Oct. 30, 1869; name index (130) to vol. 5 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 5 (129), Aug. 18, 1868-Oct. 25, 1869 ..... 8
6. Name index (74) to vol. 6 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 6 (73), Oct. 20, 1869-Dec. 28, 1870; name index (132) to vol. 6 of endorsements sent; endorsements sent, vol. 6 (131), Oct. 26, 1869-Jan. 4, 1871; name index (76) to vol. 7 of letters sent; letters sent, vol. 7 (75), Jan. 3, 1871-June 30, 1872 ..... 8
7. Subject index (140) to circulars issued; circulars issued (139), May 15, 1865-June 19, 1869; special orders issued (137), May 22, 1865-June 27, 1872 ..... 6

**Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. M752. 74 rolls. \$502\***

On the 74 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 33 volumes of registers and indexes and the related unbound letters received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-72. The records pertain to all phases of the Bureau's activities.

The records include the registers of letters received, the indexes to the registers, and the letters themselves. According to recordkeeping practices of the time, incoming letters were entered in registers of letters received. The registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which the letter was sent, the date of receipt, and an abstract of its contents.

Before 1871 letters were entered in registers alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname or office of the writer and thereunder by date of receipt. Each entry was numbered according to a separate numerical sequence used for each letter of the alphabet, and the clerks usually began new sequences each January. Registers 2 and 3, which cover the period from October 1865 to February 1866, are an exception because separate numerical sequences were begun in October 1865 and in January 1866. Consequently, two numerical sequences exist under each alphabetical division in these two registers. In January 1871, the Freedmen's Bureau began to enter letters chronologically by date of receipt and to number them consecutively within each year. For this

reason, register 18 (1871-72) has two separate numerical sequences.

There are some variations in the order in which letters were entered in the registers. In registers with alphabetical divisions, letters of recommendation were entered under the name of either the person recommended, the person making the recommendation, or the person transmitting the recommendation to the Commissioner. Particularly in register 1, letters were not always entered upon receipt, and letters of application were entered at the end of each alphabetical division without regard to the date of receipt. In register 1 a few letters referred from other Government agencies antedate the establishment of the Bureau.

There are numerous breaks in the alphabetical sequences within the registers. These breaks occur because the number of pages allotted to each letter of the alphabet often proved to be insufficient, making it necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the register. The National Archives has filmed the register in correct order so that these breaks do not appear on the microfilm. There are also breaks in the pagination of some registers because blank numbered pages were not filmed.

Occasionally the clerks in the Commissioner's Office made errors in entering letters received in the registers. Some numbers in the sequences of assigned numbers were inadvertently omitted; consequently, there are no letters bearing such numbers. Occasionally registry numbers were repeated, giving two different letters the same file designation. The clerks usually added "1/2" to the second designation. In cases where this correction was not made, the National Archives has added in brackets, "No. 1" and "No. 2," respectively.

Many symbols, cross-references, and abbreviations were entered in the registers by the Commissioner's Office and by the National Archives. The latter has stamped an asterisk (\*) near the entry number for letters that are still in the series of letters received. The notation "F/W" before a cross-reference indicates that the letter received is filed with a related letter. There are some references to other series of records in the Commissioner's Office. The notations "LB" and "PLB" refer to the letter book and press letter book series of outgoing letters, and "EB" and "SO" refer to endorsement books and special orders, respectively.

Although a separate series of endorsement books was kept by Commissioner Howard's office, the endorsements from October 1865 to August 1866 were copied into the registers of letters received and are reproduced in this microfilm publication.

Two consolidated indexes, a general name index and a general subject index, are filmed on roll 1 of this microfilm publication. The general name index covers registers 1-12 and "A-H" of register 13; the general subject index covers registers 1-13. In the latter index

the subject is entered alphabetically by initial letter. The entry identifies the letter received pertaining to a specific subject by giving either the number of the register and the file citation of the letter, or the register number and page number in the register on which the letter is entered.

Also reproduced are separate name and subject indexes to many of the registers. Neither kind of index exists for entries "A-M" in registers 4 and 5. Some of the indexes are bound in the registers and others are bound as separate volumes. On each roll the index has been filmed before the register to which it relates.

The registers reproduced in this microfilm publication were arranged in rough chronological order and numbered in sequence, but no volume numbers were assigned to the index books. Later all volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers, which appear in parentheses in this microfilm publication and are useful in identifying the volume.

The letters reproduced are arranged by order of their entry in the registers. According to the custom of other War Department offices, the Freedmen's Bureau generally filed correspondence under the name of the office of origin rather than the name of the writer. Letters from local agents and superintendents of Baton Rouge, for example, were forwarded through the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Louisiana, and upon receipt in the central office at Washington they were entered in the register under "L" for Louisiana.

The file citation that appears on the back of registered letters is taken from the entry number in the register. In a citation such as "S 204 BRF&AL Vol. 9 1867," "S" is the initial letter of the correspondent's name or office; the number "204" indicates that it is the 204th letter recorded under "S"; "BRF&AL," that it was received by the Commissioner's office; "Vol. 9," the register in which the letter was entered; and "1867," the year in which the letter was written.

Enclosures such as reports, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, and printed publications were often registered and filed with their letters of transmittal. When the Commissioner's Office received a letter accompanied by enclosures, the clerks usually mentioned them in the register and on the back of the letter and indicated the number of enclosures.

Some letters, reports, and enclosures originally filed with the letters received are no longer in this series. Each of the Commissioner's staff offices maintained its own series of registers and letters received. Correspondence and reports received by Commissioner Howard were occasionally referred to staff offices and became part of their permanent records. Not all enclosures are filed with their letters of transmittal. Enclosures containing information that the central office wanted to keep together, such as reports on schools, lands, rations, and operations, were sometimes separated from their letters of

transmittal and filed elsewhere in separate series. For this reason some of the reports that are registered as letters received and bear the file citation of the office of the Commissioner are not among the series filmed in this microfilm publication.

Because the registers frequently were used to record the disposition of documents, they are useful in tracing documents that have been removed from the file. By 1871 the Commissioner's office had added an "Action" column to the register for this purpose, but even the earlier registers include such information as the name of the official or office to which a letter was referred, a cross-reference to indicate consolidation with other letters, and the disposition of enclosures.

A few letters received that were not registered and a few unidentified enclosures that were separated from their letters of transmittal have been arranged by year and are filmed on the last roll of this microfilm publication.

#### *Indexes and registers:*

1. General name index (62) to registers 1-12;  
general subject index (63) to registers 1-13 .....\$6
2. Name and subject index (31) to register 1;  
register 1(30), May-Oct. 1865 .....6
3. Registers 2 (33) and 3 (34), Oct. 1865-Feb. 1866 .....7
4. Registers 4 (35) and 5 (36), Mar.-May 1866 .....6
5. Registers 6 (37), 7 (38), and 8 (39), May-Dec. 1866 ...7
6. Name index (41) to register 9 (40), Jan.-May 1867 ...6
7. Name index (43) to register 10; register  
10 (42), June-Aug. 1867 .....6
8. Name index (45) to register 11; register  
11 (44), Sept.-Dec. 1867 .....6
9. Name index (47), and subject index (48) to  
register 12; register 12(46), Jan.-June 1868 .....6
10. Name index (50) and subject index (51) to  
register 13; register 13 (49), July-Dec. 1868 .....6
11. Name indexes (53) to register 14 and (55) to  
register 15; registers 14 (52) and 15 (54),  
Jan.-Dec. 1869 .....7
12. Name indexes (57) to register 16, (59) to register  
17, and (61) to register 18; registers 16 (56),  
17 (58), and 18 (60), Jan. 1870-July 1872 .....7

#### *Letters received:*

##### *Mar.-Oct. 1865*

(Entered in register 1 on roll 2):

13. A-B .....7
14. C-F .....8
15. G-L .....7
16. M-R .....6
17. S .....6
18. T-Y .....7

##### *Oct. 1865-Feb. 1866*

(Entered in register 2 on roll 3):

19. A-C .....7
20. D-G .....7
21. H-L .....7
22. M .....7



(Entered in register 3 on roll 3):

23. N-R .....	\$7
24. S-U .....	.7
25. V-Y .....	.7

*Mar.-May 1866*

(Entered in register 4 on roll 4):

26. A-E .....	.7
27. F-H .....	.7
28. J-M .....	.7

(Entered in register 5 on roll 4):

29. N-S .....	.7
30. T-Y .....	.7

*May-Aug. 1866*

(Entered in register 6 on roll 5):

31. A-F .....	.6
32. G .....	.6
33. H-L .....	.7
34. M .....	.6

(Entered in register 7 on roll 5):

35. N-S375 .....	.6
36. S376-W .....	.6

*Aug.-Dec. 1866*

(Entered in register 8 on roll 5):

37. A-G .....	.7
38. H-M .....	.7
39. N-S .....	.7
40. T-Y .....	.7

*Jan.-May 1867*

(Entered in register 9 on roll 6):

41. A-E .....	.7
42. F-L .....	.7
43. M-R .....	.7
44. S-T .....	.7
45. V-Y .....	.6

*June-Aug. 1867*

(Entered in register 10 on roll 7):

46. A-H .....	.7
47. I-Q .....	.7
48. R-Y .....	.8

*Sept.-Dec. 1867*

(Entered in register 11 on roll 8):

49. A-K .....	.7
50. L-R .....	.7
51. S-Z .....	.7

*Jan.-June 1868*

(Entered in register 12 on roll 9):

52. A-F .....	\$7
53. G-L .....	.8
54. M-R .....	.7
55. S .....	.7
56. T-Z .....	.6

*July-Dec. 1868*

(Entered in register 13 on roll 10):

57. A-F .....	.7
58. G-H .....	.7
59. J-M .....	.7
60. N-T289 .....	.7
61. T290-Y .....	.7

*Jan.-July 1869*

(Entered in register 14 on roll 11):

62. A-K .....	.7
63. L-S .....	.7
64. T-W .....	.7

*Aug.-Dec. 1869*

(Entered in Register 15 on roll 11):

65. A-M .....	.7
66. N-W .....	.7

*Jan.-Aug. 1870*

(Entered in register 16 on roll 12):

67. A-C .....	.7
68. D-M .....	.6
69. N-Y .....	.7

*Aug. 1870-Jan. 1871*

(Entered in register 17 on roll 12):

70. A-W .....	.7
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*Jan.-Dec. 1871*

(Entered in register 18 on roll 12):

71. 1-499 .....	.7
72. 500-1232 .....	.7

*Jan.-July 1872*

(Entered in register 18 on roll 12):

73. 1-604 .....	.7
74. Unregistered letters, 1865-71 .....	.7

**Records of the Education Division, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1871. M803. 35 rolls. \$224\***

On the 35 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the 23 volumes and the unbound records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-71. The records consist mainly of letters sent, letters received, and reports of schools by the State superintendents of education on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.

Bureau officers worked with members of benevolent and philanthropic organizations in dispensing relief, operating employment offices, and establishing schools. The schools were of four types: day schools for instruction of young children, night schools for older children and parents, industrial schools for practical instruction in such skills as sewing, and Sunday or Sabbath schools for religious instruction.

Although the establishment of schools was an important aspect of improving the lives of the newly freed slaves, there was no organized department concerned with matters of education when the Bureau began operations in 1865. The educational activities of the Bureau and the organization for supervising these activities grew as the educational needs of the freedmen increased.

During the early months of the Bureau's existence there was no apparent attempt by the Government to finance freedmen's schools on a large scale. This inactivity on the part of the Bureau was due primarily to the fact that benevolent societies in the North maintained schools in many parts of the South, and a few in some of the Northern States, and continued to do so for some months after the establishment of the Bureau. In July 1865 Commissioner Howard directed the Assistant Commissioners in the States to appoint general superintendents of schools to assist them in making reports on educational matters.

In October 1865 Rev. John W. Alvord was appointed Inspector of Finances and Schools. In the months after his appointment the educational needs of the freedmen grew rapidly and many benevolent societies learned that their financial resources were inadequate to meet the demand for educational development. By an act of July 13, 1866 (14 Stat. 92), Congress authorized funds for the salaries of State superintendents of education and for the repair and rental of school buildings. The appropriation aided in establishing the Education Division as a separate entity within the Freedmen's Bureau. Reverend Alvord was relieved of his responsibilities for the inspection of the Bureau's finances in January 1867 when he was appointed as General Superintendent of Education. He retained the new position until his resignation in late 1870.

Throughout its existence the Bureau maintained close ties with the benevolent societies who retained control of such administrative matters as the selection and the specific school assignments of teachers. In many instances when the philanthropic societies had to curtail their financial support, the Bureau provided funds that were channeled through the societies.

The period from late 1866 until far into 1868 was one of great activity for the Education Division. Enrollment in Bureau-financed schools grew rapidly, new school buildings were constructed in many communities, and the curriculum was expanded, but by late 1868 much of the work in other divisions of the Freedmen's Bureau was coming to an end.

An act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), provided that on January 1, 1869, the Commissioner was to withdraw the Assistant Commissioners and most Bureau officers from the States and to discontinue the functions of the Bureau except those relating to education and to the collection and payment of claims. Although educational activities were to continue for an unspecified period, by late 1870 most offices of the State superintendents of education had closed, and on November 30, 1870, Reverend Alvord resigned as General Superintendent of Education.

The Work of the Education Division was greatly reduced after Reverend Alvord's resignation but school reports and correspondence continued to arrive during the next several months and some clerical functions were continued. Because no further appropriations were made by Congress, the educational activities of the Freedmen's Bureau terminated in March 1871.

The volumes reproduced in this microcopy were originally arranged by type of record and thereunder in numerical sequence, with no numbers assigned to index books or to series consisting of single volumes. Later all the volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers. In this microfilm publication the last set of numbers assigned are in parentheses and are useful as an aid in identifying the volumes.

#### Series Listings and Remarks

LETTERS SENT (Vols. 1(8), 2(10), and A-F(11-16)). The 8 volumes of letters sent contain copies of the letters dispatched by Reverend Alvord or by a subordinate acting for him. There are a few copies with General Howard's signature. The letters are either fair or press copies, illustrating two distinctive recordkeeping practices of the mid-19th century. The press copies were obtained by wetting a piece of thin paper and pressing it on the original letter through the use of a press-copying machine, which caused the ink to be transferred to the moistened paper. Because of the relative crudeness of this method, many of the press copies are difficult to read and some are virtually illegible. The fair copies are



handwritten duplicates of the press copies and are clear and easy to read. Because fair copies were not made of all the letters, the press copies also have been reproduced in this microfilm publication.

The fair-copy letters are in volumes 1(8) and 2(10), January 1, 1866-January 1, 1868. Also included are lengthy narrative reports submitted to the Commissioner by Reverend Alvord. The letters and the reports are arranged in chronological order, but the reports, which are only in the fair-copy volumes, were prepared at 6-month intervals. The first document in volume 1 is a report on freedmen's schools, dated January 1, 1866, submitted by Reverend Alvord at the conclusion of a 3-month inspection trip in late 1865. The next document is dated July 1, 1866. A name index to volume 1 is bound at the beginning of the volume.

Each letter in the fair-copy volumes is duplicated in the press-copy books. Beginning October 10, 1866, this duplication is indicated in the fair-copy volumes by a designation such as "P L B 'A' 162," which appears in the lower left corner of the copies. "P L B" means "press letter book" and "'A' 162" indicates the duplicate is on page 162 of volume A.

The press-copy letters are in volumes A-F(11-16), July 18, 1866-March 3, 1871. The copies are arranged in chronological order. At the beginning of each volume is a name index.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** Often instead of dispatching a letter in reply to a letter received, the incoming letter was endorsed. This meant that the reply or forwarding statement was written on the incoming letter, which was either returned to the sender or forwarded to another office. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books, with a summary of the incoming letter on which the endorsement was written.

The volume of endorsements sent by the Education Division is dated June 13, 1867-September 1, 1870. The endorsements are arranged in chronological order by the date the endorsement was sent. The volume has no index.

From June 13, 1867, through April 21, 1869, the name of the writer of the incoming letter is in the left margin of the endorsement page. Beginning on August 14, 1869, cross-reference notations of either of two types occur at irregular intervals: "E B Vol. 1 #20," or "P E on page 29." Both references indicate that preceding or subsequent endorsements to the same correspondent are elsewhere in the same volume. "E B" means "endorsement book" and "P E" means "previous endorsement." The numerical notation refers to the page in the volume on which there is an additional endorsement.

**REGISTERS OF UNBOUND LETTERS RECEIVED** (Vols. 1-3). According to the recordkeeping practice of

the time, letters received were entered in registers alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of writer and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt. Each entry consists of the date the letter was received, the name or the office of the writer, the date the letter was written, and the purpose of the letter.

The three registers of letters received by the Education Division are dated from 1866 to 1871. The entries in register 1 (September 17, 1866-June 7, 1869) are arranged in a separate numerical sequence within each alphabetical section for each year. The entries in register 2 (May 27, 1869-January 13, 1870) and register 3 (January 5, 1870-January 5, 1871) are in a continuous numerical sequence within each alphabetical section without regard to year. When a letter was written in reply and was copied in the press-copy books, a cross-reference designation such as "P L B Vol. C 234" was placed in the lower left corner of the entry. The designation indicates that the reply is on page 234 in volume C of the press-copy letterbook.

Name and subject indexes are filmed before the registers to which they relate. The entries in the indexes are of two types: if the letter was entered under the same alphabetical section in both the register and the index, only an entry number was given; if the letter was entered under a different alphabetical section, the combination of a letter and a number was used to indicate the section of the register in which the letter was entered. The entries in the indexes to register 1 indicate the page number in the register in which the letter was entered. The entries in the indexes to registers 2 and 3 indicate the entry (not page) number of the specific letter in the registers.

The National Archives has placed an asterisk beside the entry number in the registers if the letter is in the letters-received file. The fact that no asterisk appears beside a specific entry does not necessarily mean that the letter is missing. A common practice of the Education Division was to enter school reports and schedules of schools and rental accounts in the registers as letters received and then to place the records in other series. These series of school reports and rental accounts are reproduced on rolls 15-35 of this microfilm publication.

**UNBOUND LETTERS RECEIVED.** The unbound letters received consist of one series of letters entered in registers 1-3 and three series of unregistered letters.

The series of registered letters received, September 27, 1866-January 5, 1871, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The letters were received from State superintendents of education, assistant commissioners, subassistant commissioners, and Bureau agents, and from secretaries of benevolent societies and private citizens relating to education. The series also contains such related documents as copies of Congressional legislation concerning education and copies of



various State constitutions containing educational provisions.

Near the top of the outside fold of the letters is the register file number in script or as part of a preprinted statement. The notation "E. D." indicates that the letter is entered in the Education Division register. The notation "R.F.A.L." as part of the file number on many letters indicates that the letter is entered in the Bureau registers.

The outside fold also contains the name of the writer, the purpose of the letter, and frequently the circular Bureau stamp showing the date the letter was received by the Bureau. Notations by the Education Division show the date the letter was received and filed in that Division.

The three series of unregistered letters, 1865-1870, consist of letters from Bureau officials, miscellaneous letters, and letters pertaining to financial matters. The letters from Bureau officials (August 1865-May 1870) are arranged alphabetically by name of State in which the official served and thereunder chronologically. The miscellaneous letters (June 1865-March 1871) were received from private citizens and from officials of benevolent societies. Also included are such related documents as histories of some philanthropic societies. The communications are arranged chronologically. A few miscellaneous circulars, working copies of reports, and undated letters and reports are filed at the end of the series. The letters pertaining to financial affairs (March 1865-March 1870) were received by Reverend Alvord in his dual capacity as General Superintendent of Education and as President of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. The letters are arranged chronologically. Because of the close ties between the Freedmen's Bureau and the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, the letters are relevant to the activities of the Education Division.

**SCHOOL REPORTS (UNBOUND).** Three types of reports from June 1865 to December 1870 were submitted to the Bureau Headquarters in Washington by the State superintendents of education: monthly reports, consolidated reports for individual States for varying time periods, and monthly reports beginning in late 1868 about school buildings and teachers.

The reports are arranged alphabetically by name of State and thereunder chronologically by type of report, with a few consolidated reports for all 15 States and the District of Columbia at the end of the series. The monthly reports are filed at the beginning of the reports for each State, followed by the consolidated or miscellaneous reports and the reports about school buildings and teachers. The reports for the border States of Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia are filed with the reports of the District of Columbia, although an Assistant Commissioner was assigned to Maryland for a time.

The outside fold of the reports contains the Bureau stamp showing the date of receipt, the month and year of the report, and the name of the State from which the report was received. The reports bear the file designation of the Education Division ("E. D.") and also, in some cases, of the Bureau headquarters ("R.F.A.L."). Dual designations indicate that many reports were first received in the Bureau Headquarters, entered as incoming communications in the registers of letters received, and then forwarded to the Education Division.

The monthly reports from the State superintendents of education were made in either statistical or narrative form. The statistical reports give the names and locations of schools, names of benevolent societies sponsoring the schools, whether the school was a day or night school, and whether the building was owned by the freedmen or by other persons. The reports contain information about the pupils, including sex, race, age, degree of literacy, and whether or not they were free before the war. The reports also show the number of pupils in such types of classes as geography, arithmetic, writing, and needlework and in the "higher branches"; how much tuition was paid by the freedmen; and the expenses of the schools. These statistical reports were generally made on preprinted forms supplied by the Bureau Headquarters. The monthly reports in narrative form generally contain information about the attitudes of the community toward freedmen's schools, any personnel or other administrative problems that a State superintendent might have, suggestions by a State superintendent for the improvement of schools in the State assigned to him or for freedmen's schools in general, and any other information that could not be included in reports of a statistical nature.

The consolidated or miscellaneous reports were made at intervals ranging from quarterly to annual and are either statistical or narrative in form. The statistical types are compilations of the monthly statistical reports for the period cited. The narrative reports summarize the operations for the reporting period and generally include recommendations more comprehensive than those contained in the monthly narrative reports.

The reports about buildings and teachers contain information relating to school buildings owned by the Bureau or by private citizens and information relating to teachers and their school assignments. The reports submitted concerning the buildings give the location of the school, the type of materials used in constructing the building, the dimensions of the building, and the estimated value of the building and of the land upon which it was situated. The reports submitted pertaining to each teacher show the society that sponsored him, his full name, the name and location of the school, the number of pupils for each teacher, and the total number of teachers sponsored by each society.

**SCHOOL REPORTS (BOUND).** The volumes consist of an index to only volume 1 of synopses of school reports, volumes 1(18) and 2(20) of synopses of school reports, a volume of consolidated statistical reports (21), a register of reports received (22), and a volume containing a list of names of teachers (23).

The two volumes of synopses of school reports, January 2, 1867-January 20, 1870, contain narrative abstracts of monthly reports submitted by the State superintendents of education. The reports are arranged chronologically by date of receipt. The name of the State from which the report was received is written in the left margin.

The volume of consolidated statistical reports, October 1866-June 1870, contains abstracts of statistics from the monthly reports. The abstracts are arranged chronologically.

The register of reports received, 1865-69, is a list of reports showing the type of report submitted, the month and year of the report, and the month it was received. The volume also contains such information as teachers' names and addresses, the name of the school to which the teacher was assigned, and addresses of secretaries of benevolent societies.

The volume containing a list of teachers' names shows their full names and the names of the societies employing them.

**SCHEDULES OF SCHOOLS AND RENTAL ACCOUNTS.** These records consist of reports submitted to the Bureau by benevolent societies to verify payments made by the Bureau for operating freedmen's schools. The reports, September 1867-December 1870, were made for varying time periods and were generally submitted on preprinted forms. Information in the reports gives the name of the society that sponsored the school, the location of the school, the name of the teacher, the number of months the teacher had been employed, the average number of pupils, and the amount of rent due. Reports are arranged alphabetically by name of State and thereunder chronologically.

The outside fold of the report shows the name of the society that prepared the report, the period covered by the report, and the name of the State concerned. Also included are the date the report was received and the file designation of the Education Division. Virtually all the reports are marked with a file designation indicating that they were entered in the register of letters received as incoming communications and then placed in a separate file. Arranged chronologically at the end of the series are a few miscellaneous summary reports listing schools managed by benevolent societies for the period October 1868-June 1869.

*Letters Sent:*

1. Volume 1 (8),  
Jan. 1, 1866-Oct. 10, 1867;

- Volume 2 (10),  
Oct. 11, 1867-Jan. 1, 1868 ..... \$6
2. Volume A (11),  
July 18, 1866-Jan. 30, 1867;  
Volume B (12),  
Jan. 28-Sept. 4, 1867 ..... 7
3. Volume C (13),  
Sept. 7, 1867-July 17, 1868;  
Volume D (14),  
July 17, 1868-May 27, 1869 ..... 7
4. Volume E (15),  
May 27, 1869-Aug. 11, 1870;  
Volume F (16),  
Aug. 15, 1870-Mar. 3, 1871  
Endorsements Sent (17),  
June 13, 1867-Sept. 1, 1870 ..... 6
- 5 Name Index (2); Subject Index (3);  
Register of Letters Received,  
Volume 1 (1),  
Sept. 27, 1866-June 7, 1869;  
Name Index (5); Subject Index (n.n.);  
Register of Letters Received,  
Volume 2 (4),  
May 27, 1869-Jan. 13, 1870; Name  
and Subject Index (7); Register of  
Letters Received, Volume 3 (6),  
Jan. 5, 1870-Jan. 5, 1871 ..... 7

*Letters Received:*

(Entered in Register 1):

6. A-F, Sept. 1866-May 1869 ..... 8
7. G-M, Sept. 1866-May 1869 ..... 7
8. N-Y, Oct. 1866-May 1869 ..... 7

(Entered in Register 2):

9. A-P, June 1869-Jan. 1870 ..... 7
10. R-Y, May 1869-Jan. 1870;

(Entered in Register 3):

- A-F, Jan.-Dec. 1870 ..... 7
11. G-Y, Jan. 1870-Jan. 1871 ..... 7
12. Unregistered Letters Received From  
Bureau Officials, Aug. 1865-May 1870 ..... 8
13. Miscellaneous Unregistered Letters  
Received, June 1865-Mar. 1871 ..... 8
14. Unregistered Letters Received  
Pertaining to Financial Affairs,  
Mar. 1865-Mar. 1870 ..... 8

*School Reports:*

15. Alabama: Monthly, Sept. 1865-Dec. 1869;  
Miscellaneous, Oct. 1865-June 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Dec. 1868-June 1870;  
Arkansas: Monthly, Oct. 1865-June 1870;  
Miscellaneous, June 1866-July 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Nov. 1868-Mar. 1870 ..... 7

*District of Columbia (including Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia):*

16. Monthly, Oct. 1865-June 1868 ..... 6
17. Monthly, July 1868-Feb. 1870 ..... 6
18. Monthly, Mar.-June 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Apr. 1866-July 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Oct. 1868-Sept.  
1869 ..... 6



19. Florida: Monthly, Nov. 1865-Apr. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Oct. 1865-June 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Apr. 1869-Apr. 1870;  
Georgia: Monthly, Nov. 1865-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Apr. 1866-July 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Oct. 1868-May 1870 ..... \$7

*Kentucky:*

20. Monthly, June 1866-Jan. 1869 ..... 6  
21. Monthly, Feb. 1869-June 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Apr. 1866-July 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Jan. 1868-June  
1870 ..... 5

*Louisiana:*

22. Monthly, June 1865-Jan. 1868 ..... 6  
23. Monthly, Feb.-Dec. 1868;  
Miscellaneous, Jan. 1866-June 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Mar.-May 1870 ..... 5  
24. Mississippi: Monthly, Aug. 1865-June 1870;  
Miscellaneous, 1869;  
Buildings and Teachers, Nov. 1868-Apr.  
1870 ..... 6  
25. Missouri: Monthly, Apr. 1867-Jan. 1869;  
Miscellaneous, Jan. 1868-July 1870;  
Building, Mar. 1870 ..... 5

*North Carolina:*

26. Monthly, July 1865-July 1868 ..... 5  
27. Monthly, Aug. 1868-June 1869 ..... 6  
28. Monthly, July 1869-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, July 1868-July 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Jan. 1869-Jan.  
1870 ..... 6  
29. South Carolina: Monthly, Oct. 1865-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Nov. 1865-Apr. 1871;  
Buildings and Teachers, Nov. 1868-June 1870 ..... 7  
30. Tennessee: Monthly, Aug. 1865-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, June 1867-June 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Mar. 1867-June  
1870 ..... 6  
31. Texas: Monthly, Dec. 1865-May 1870;  
Miscellaneous, July 1868-June 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Oct. 1868-Apr. 1870 ..... 6  
32. Virginia: Monthly, July 1865-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous, Oct. 1865-Aug. 1870;  
Buildings and Teachers, Oct. 1868-Dec.  
1870 ..... 6  
33. Index (19) to Volume 1 of Synopses of  
School Reports; Synopses of School Reports,  
Volume 1 (18), Jan. 2, 1867-July 19, 1869,  
Volume 2 (20), July 19, 1869-Jan. 20, 1870;  
Consolidated Statistical Reports (21),  
Oct. 1866-June 1870; Register of Reports  
Received (22), 1865-69; List of Names of  
Teachers (23) (n.d.) ..... 6

*Schedules of Schools and Rental Accounts:*

34. Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia  
(including Delaware, Maryland, and West  
Virginia), Florida, Georgia, Illinois,  
Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and  
North Carolina, Oct. 1868-Dec. 1870 ..... 6

35. South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and  
Virginia, Sept. 1867-Dec. 1870;  
Miscellaneous Summary Reports, Oct.  
1868-June 1869 ..... \$6

**Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870. M809. 23 rolls. \$156\***

On the 23 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. The records consist of 17 volumes and some unbound documents. The volumes include letters, reports, endorsements, and telegrams sent; orders issued; and registers of letters received. The unbound records include letters, reports, and issuances received. Except for some unfiled duplicate copies, this microfilm publication contains all the records created or received in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Alabama.

The act of March 3, 1865, authorized the appointment of Assistant Commissioners to aid the Commissioner in supervising the work of the Bureau in the States. In Alabama, operations began in July 1865 when Brig. Gen. Wager Swayne took command as Assistant Commissioner. Succeeding Swayne in January 1868 was Bvt. Brig. Julius Hayden who served until March 1868, Col. Oliver L. Shepherd who served from March to August 1868, and Col. T. H. Ruger who held the position of Assistant Commissioner for only a few days before the arrival of Bvt. Lt. Col. Edwin Beecher later in August 1868. In January 1869, in accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations in Alabama, as in other States, were terminated except for the educational functions and the collection of claims. Colonel Beecher remained to serve as Superintendent of Education and held that position until the office was closed in July 1870. Some of the records for Beecher's tenure as Superintendent of Education are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner, but most of them are in the records of the Superintendent of Education.

The Assistant Commissioner's staff consisted at various times of a Superintendent of Education, an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Disbursing Officer, a Chief Medical Officer, a Chief Quartermaster, and a Commissary of Subsistence. Subordinate to these officers were the assistant superintendents, or subassistant commissioners as they later became known, who commanded the subdistricts. The more important subdistricts included those with headquarters at Demopolis, Eufaula, Greenville, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Opelika, Selma, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. Under direct supervision of the subassistant commissioners were the civilian and military agents.

Occasionally military officers would be retained by the Bureau in a civilian capacity after the termination of their military service. One such instance was the appointment of O. D. Kinsman in June 1867 as subassistant commissioner in charge of the Assistant Commissioner's office. Kinsman had served previously under General Swayne as Assistant Adjutant General.

The Assistant Commissioner corresponded extensively both with his superior in the Washington Bureau headquarters and with his subordinate officers in the subdistricts. Based upon reports submitted to him by the subassistant commissioners and other subordinate staff officers, he prepared reports that he sent to the Commissioner concerning Bureau activities in Alabama. The Assistant Commissioner also received letters from freedmen, local white citizens, State officials, and other non-Bureau personnel. These letters varied in nature from complaints to applications for jobs in the Bureau. Because the Assistant Adjutant General handled much of the mail for the Assistant Commissioner's office, it was often addressed to him instead of to the Assistant Commissioner.

From June 1866 to January 1868 the Assistant Commissioner, General Swayne, served also as the military commander of Alabama. He therefore created and received records in both capacities. The dual function of the Assistant Commissioner also resulted in a succession of changes in the official headings used on correspondence and issuances. The title "Office of the Assistant Commissioner" was changed in June 1866 to "Headquarters, District of Alabama" and in August 1866 to "Headquarters, Subdistrict of Alabama." The heading "District of Alabama" was used again from March 1867 until superseded by "State of Alabama" in February 1868.

The dual function of the office is also reflected in the recordkeeping practices for that period. Although the Assistant Commissioner generally maintained separate records for each of his capacities, in the case of letters and endorsements sent the records were frequently combined. Wherever separable, the records created by the Assistant Commissioner in his military capacity are among Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393.

The volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication were originally arranged by type of record and thereunder in numerical sequence. Originally no numbers were assigned to series consisting of single volumes; later all the volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers. In this microfilm publication the last set of numbers assigned is in parentheses and is useful as an aid in identifying the volumes. In some volumes, and particularly in indexes and alphabetical headings of registers, there are a number of blank numbered pages that have not been filmed.

### Series Listings and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The five volumes of letters sent, July 1865-July 1870, are arranged chronologically and each volume contains a name index. The volumes also contain copies of annual reports, 1867-69, sent by the Assistant Commissioner to Commissioner Howard. The 1866 annual report is among the series of reports described below. Monthly reports from the Assistant Commissioner to the Commissioner from January 1868 to January 1869 are also copied in the volumes. In addition to these reports, volume 5 also contains reports from the Superintendent of Education both to the General Superintendent of Schools and to the Commissioner in Washington.

The unbound letters sent, August 11-September 22, 1865, are arranged chronologically and are not duplicated in the volumes of letters sent described above.

**REPORTS SENT.** The annual report of the Assistant Commissioner, issued in October 1866, is in printed form and completes the series of reports included in the volumes of letters sent described above.

The volume of weekly reports of the Assistant Commissioner, July 24, 1865-January 31, 1866, is arranged chronologically and contains a name index. The reports consist of narrative weekly summaries of problems and developments relating to the Bureau during its organizing phase in the State.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** Endorsements sent are characteristic of 19th century recordkeeping practices. A reply to an incoming letter was frequently written on the letter itself or on a specially prepared wrapper. The reply, known as an endorsement, was then copied into an endorsement book, and the endorsed letter was returned to the sender or forwarded to another office. Endorsement books also usually include a summary of the incoming letter and sometimes previous endorsements that were recorded on it.

The three volumes of endorsements sent, October 2, 1865-July 7, 1866, and April 3, 1867-July 21, 1869, are arranged chronologically, and each volume contains a name index. The endorsements are cross-referenced by citations to other endorsements in the same series, to the registers of letters received, and to letters sent. The gap in the series, June 1866-April 1867, is filled by endorsements for that period among the records for the District of Alabama in Record Group 393, which are not reproduced in this publication.

**REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** Registers of letters received are also typical of 19th century recordkeeping practices. In addition to a summary of the contents of the incoming letter, the registers usually include such identifying information as the name and



sometimes the office of the writer, the date of receipt, the date of the communication, the place from which it was written, and the entry number assigned at the time of receipt.

The entries in the two volumes of registers of letters received, June 1866-April 1869, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the correspondent's surname or office and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt of the communication. The volumes are cross-referenced to the endorsement books by a citation giving the file number of the endorsement.

The registers do not relate to the unbound series of letters received. Apparently most or all of the letters registered were either endorsed and returned to the sender or forwarded, generally to higher authorities in the Washington Bureau headquarters or to subordinates in the subdistricts.

The third register of letters received, May 23, 1867-April 1, 1868, is arranged chronologically by date of receipt of communication. Unlike the other registers, which contain a summary of the incoming letter, the entries in this volume give only a brief statement indicating the content. Some of the letters registered in this volume are interfiled with the unbound series of letters received described below.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** Most of the letters received, 1865-70, are unregistered. They are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by the initial letter of the correspondent's surname. In addition to the general correspondence addressed to the Assistant Commissioner are letters written to individuals other than the Assistant Commissioner, but they were forwarded to and retained by him. The series also includes letters written by the Assistant Commissioner himself, which were endorsed and returned to his office; these letters have been filed according to the initial letter of the Assistant Commissioner's surname. Petitions from more than one person have been filed under "P." Most of the letters received by Assistant Commissioner Beecher after 1869 were addressed to him as Superintendent of Education, but they are included in this microfilm publication. Occasionally, the letters from the subassistant commissioners will resemble or contain reports on conditions in the subdistricts.

**TELEGRAMS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are a volume of telegrams sent and an unbound series of telegrams received. The volume of telegrams sent, July 28, 1865-September 17, 1868, is arranged chronologically and contains a name and subject index for 1865 and 1866. The unbound telegrams received, June 21-July 24, 1865, January 9, 1866-April 29, 1867, and June 5, 1867-November 12, 1868, are arranged chronologically. The telegrams were not entered in the registers of letters received.

**ISSUANCES.** There are three volumes of issuances, including one volume of general orders, circulars, and circular letters issued and two volumes of special orders issued. There are also three series of unbound issuances received. Separate numbering systems for each year are maintained for all issuances except circular letters. Circular letters are unnumbered and are usually interfiled with circulars or other issuances.

The volume of general orders, circulars, and circular letters issued, July 26, 1865-December 31, 1868, is generally arranged in chronological order and has a name index. For 1865 there are general orders only. In 1866 and 1867 general orders were interfiled with circulars and circular letters. For 1868 there are circulars and circular letters only.

The two volumes of special orders issued, July 28, 1865-May 11, 1869, are generally arranged in chronological order and contain name indexes. From July 1865 to January 1869, the special orders are interfiled with circulars and circular letters, some of which are duplicated in the above-cited volume of general orders, circulars, and circular letters issued. Beginning in January 1869, special orders and circulars are arranged according to type of issuance and thereunder chronologically.

The unbound general orders, circulars, circular letters, and special orders received in the office of the Assistant Commissioner are arranged according to type of issuance and thereunder chronologically. Generally, the issuances were received from the Bureau headquarters in Washington.

**NARRATIVE REPORTS RECEIVED.** Three series of unbound narrative reports were received by the Assistant Commissioner: operations reports from subdistrict officers, annual reports from staff officers, and miscellaneous reports from staff and Bureau officials.

The unbound reports of operations from the subdistrict officers, September 1865-December 1868, are arranged alphabetically by name of subdistrict and thereunder chronologically. These weekly, monthly, and annual reports pertain to the performance of Bureau functions at the subdistrict level. Reports frequently contain information relating to school matters, the administration of relief, agriculture and labor conditions, the operation of laws, outrages committed upon freedmen, and the relationship between races. Sometimes there are also reports on conditions in the subdistricts among the letters received by the Assistant Commissioner.

The unbound annual reports from staff officers, 1866-68, are arranged chronologically. They include reports from the Disbursing Officer, the Subsistence Department, and the Medical Department. The Assistant Commissioner apparently used these reports to compile his annual reports to the Commissioner.



Unbound miscellaneous reports from staff and Bureau officials, August 1865-April 1868, are arranged chronologically. The papers consist primarily of reports of inspection tours undertaken by Bureau personnel. There are reports on such subjects as the condition of prisoners, the misuse of public stores, the condition of the destitute, and the status of Bureau property.

**FORM REPORTS.** Five types of reports were submitted on forms, including those received by the Assistant Commissioner from staff and subordinate officers as well as retained copies of reports sent by him to Bureau headquarters in Washington.

The unbound personal reports, February-December 1868, are generally arranged alphabetically by surname of reporter and thereunder chronologically. The reports were received periodically from Bureau personnel and include such information as name of employee, rank, station, nature of duty, date of assignment, and source of authority for appointment. A few reports for 1866 and 1867 are also included.

The unbound consolidated trimonthly reports concerning destitute freedmen, July 1865-June 1866, are generally arranged alphabetically by name of subdistrict and thereunder chronologically. The reports contain information relating to the number of men, women, and children fit or unfit for work. The figures were apparently used as a basis for establishing the degree of destitution so that rations could be issued.

The unbound monthly reports of rations issued, July 1865-December 1868, are generally arranged chronologically by month and thereunder alphabetically by subdistrict. The reports contain statistical data on the number and types of persons receiving rations and the value of the rations issued. From the reports submitted by the subdistricts, the Assistant Commissioner prepared a monthly consolidated report that contained most of the information given in the individual subdistrict reports. Consolidated reports are filed before the subdistrict reports for each month.

The unbound monthly reports of abandoned and confiscated lands, August 1865-December 1868, are arranged chronologically by month and thereunder alphabetically by subdistrict. The land reports usually contain information on the name of the former owner; location, boundaries, and acreage of land; whether the property was abandoned or confiscated; and types of buildings on the property. As in the case of ration reports, the Assistant Commissioner generally prepared a consolidated report based on reports received from the subdistricts. These consolidated reports contain most of the information submitted in the subdistrict reports, and they are filed at the beginning of the reports for each month.

There are two unbound series of rosters of Bureau personnel, July 1865-May 1869: a series of consolidated

rosters for the State arranged chronologically, September 1865-May 1869, and a series of subdistrict rosters arranged alphabetically by subdistrict, July 1865-December, 1868. Both types of rosters contain information relating to the names, locations, and ranks of both military and civilian Bureau personnel.

**OTHER RECORDS.** Filmed directly after the form reports are the unbound oaths of office, 1865-69, which are arranged alphabetically by surname of the individual who took the oath of loyalty to the United States. These oaths were required by an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), for all officeholders whether elected or appointed.

On the last roll of this microfilm publication are a register of claims and an unbound series of miscellaneous papers. The entries in the register of claims, July 23, 1866-July 27, 1869, are arranged chronologically by date of receipt of claim; the register has a name index. Types of claims registered include applications for bounties, backpay, pensions, and rations. The volume also contains information on the name and rank of the claimant, the immediate action taken, the date of transmission, and the type of claim. There is no information on the specific nature of this claim or the eventual outcome.

The unbound miscellaneous papers, July 1865-October 1867, are arranged by subject in accordance with a subject index prepared by the Adjutant General's Office. Most of the papers relate to property, claims, frauds, and contracts.

#### *Letters Sent:*

1. Volume 1 (4),  
July 27, 1865-May 2, 1866;  
Volume 2 (5),  
May 2-June 27, 1866;  
Volume 3 (8),  
June 4, 1866-Apr. 6, 1867 ..... \$7
2. Volume 4 (9),  
Apr. 2, 1867-Dec. 28, 1868;  
Volume 5 (10),  
Jan. 4, 1869-July 1, 1870;  
Unbound Letters Sent,  
Aug. 11-Sept. 22, 1865;  
Annual Report of the Assistant  
Commissioner, Oct. 1866;  
Weekly Reports of the Assistant  
Commissioner, Volume (7),  
July 24, 1865-Jan. 31, 1866 ..... 6
3. Endorsements Sent:  
Volume 1 (12), Oct. 2, 1865-July 7, 1866;  
Volume 2 (13), Apr. 3, 1867-Dec. 24, 1868;  
Volume 3 (14), Feb. 11-July 21, 1869 ..... 6
4. Registers of Letters Received:  
Volume 1 (1), June 1866-Dec. 1868;  
Volume 2 (2), Jan.-Apr. 1869;  
Volume 3 (3), May 23, 1867-  
Apr. 1, 1868 ..... 6

*Letters Received:*

5. A-J, 1865 .....	\$7
6. K-Y, 1865 .....	7
7. A-G, 1866 .....	7
8. H-P, 1866 .....	7
9. R-Y, 1866 .....	7
10. A-F, 1867 .....	7
11. G-L, 1867 .....	7
12. M-R, 1867 .....	7
13. S-Z, 1867 .....	7
14. A-R, 1868 .....	7
15. S-Y, 1868; A-W, 1869; A-R, 1870 .....	6
16. Telegrams Sent, Volume (11), July 28, 1865-Sept. 17, 1868; Telegrams Received, June 21-July 24, 1865; Jan. 9, 1866-Apr. 29, 1867; and June 5, 1867-Nov. 12, 1868 .....	7
17. General Orders, Circulars, and Circular Letters Issued, Volume (15), July 26, 1865-Dec. 31, 1868; Special Orders Issued: Volume 1 (16), July 28, 1865-Dec. 31, 1868; Volume 2 (17), Jan. 15-May 11, 1869; General Orders Received, Aug. 9, 1865- Dec. 13, 1867; Circulars and Circular Letters Received, June 14, 1865-Dec. 18, 1868; Special Orders Received, May 8, 1865- July 24, 1869 .....	7
18. Reports of Operations From the Subdistricts, Sept., 1865-Dec. 1868 .....	7
19. Annual Reports From Staff Officers, 1866-68; Miscellaneous Reports From Staff and Bureau Officials, Aug. 1865- Apr. 1868; Personal Reports, Feb.- Dec. 1868; Consolidated Trimonthly Reports of Destitute Freedmen, July 1865-June 1866 .....	7
20. Monthly Reports of Rations Issued, July 1865-Dec. 1868 .....	8
21. Monthly Reports of Abandoned and Confiscated Lands, Aug. 1865- Dec. 1868 .....	6
22. State Rosters of Bureau Personnel, Sept. 1865-May 1869; Subdistrict Rosters of Bureau Personnel, July 1865-Dec. 1868; Oaths of Office, 1865-69 .....	7
23. Register of Claims, Volume (18), July 23, 1866-July 27, 1869; Miscellaneous Papers, July 1865- Oct. 1867 .....	6

**Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870. M810. 8 rolls. \$56\***

On the eight rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the bound and unbound records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

1865-70. The bound records include four volumes of letters and endorsements sent, a register of letters received, and a miscellaneous account book. The unbound records include letters and issuances received, reports issued and received, and miscellaneous papers.

The act of March 3, 1865, authorized the appointment of Assistant Commissioners to aid the Commissioner in supervising the work of the Bureau in the States. Brig. Gen. Wager Swayne was appointed assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama. In a circular issued by Commissioner Howard in July 1865, the Assistant Commissioners were instructed to designate one officer in each State to serve as "general Superintendents of Schools." These officials were to "take cognizance of all that is being done to educate refugees and freedmen, secure proper protection to schools and teachers, promote method and efficiency, correspond with the benevolent agencies which are supplying his field, and aid the Assistant Commissioner in making his required reports." In October 1865, a degree of centralized control was established over Bureau educational activities in the States when Rev. John W. Alvord was appointed Inspector of Finances and Schools. In January 1867, Alvord was divested of his financial responsibilities, and he was appointed General Superintendent of Education.

Bureau educational activity in Alabama officially began with the appointment of Rev. Charles W. Buckley as Bureau Inspector and Superintendent of Schools in October 1865. Buckley was succeeded by Henry M. Bush, who served as Acting Superintendent from January 1868 until the appointment of R. D. Harper in March of the same year. Harper served during 1868 but, because he was frequently away on leave, Bush was authorized by Assistant Commissioner Oliver L. Shepherd to administer the office in Harper's absence. In January 1869, in accordance with an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), Bureau operations in Alabama, as in other States, were terminated except for the educational functions and the collection of claims. Edwin Beecher, formerly Assistant Commissioner, became Superintendent of Education at that time and served in that capacity until July 1870, when the remaining Bureau activities in Alabama were also terminated.

Heading the Bureau's educational system was the Superintendent of Education who served under the Assistant Commissioner as a Staff Officer. Subordinate to both the Assistant Commissioner and the Superintendent of Education were the assistant superintendents, later called subassistant commissioners, who commanded the subdistricts into which the State was divided. Some of the more important subdistricts included those with headquarters at Demopolis, Eufaula, Greenville, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Opolika, Selma, Talladega, and Tuscaloosa. A subassistant commissioner supervised all Bureau activities in his area, including education, and



reported on educational matters to both the Superintendent of Education and the Assistant Commissioner. After January 1869, when the function of the Bureau became almost entirely educational, subassistant commissioners became local superintendents of education. Each teacher reported to the subassistant commissioner of his subdistrict.

The schools maintained by the Bureau in Alabama included day schools for children, night schools for adults, and Sabbath schools. Rudimentary education, including reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, received primary emphasis in most Bureau schools. Teachers were recruited from the local white population, from among the freedmen themselves, and from the North by the freedmen's aid societies. No single policy of assigning responsibilities in the maintenance of the schools was followed consistently. The Bureau generally supplied buildings for schools and transportation for teachers and relied on the aid societies and freedmen to pay for textbooks and teachers' salaries, although at times teachers were paid from Bureau funds.

The Superintendent of Education reported to and corresponded with the Assistant Commissioner and with superiors in the Bureau's Washington headquarters. In addition, he corresponded with and received reports from subordinate officers and teachers in the subdistricts. The Superintendent also corresponded extensively with aid societies regarding their contributions to the educational effort in the State.

When Assistant Commissioner Beecher became Superintendent of Education in 1869, he failed to separate completely the records of the new office from those of the old. Consequently, some of his reports and letters sent and a few endorsements and issuances created in his capacity as Superintendent of Education are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner.

The volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication were originally unnumbered. Later they were arbitrarily assigned numbers, which are shown in parentheses and which serve as an aid in identifying the volumes. Blank numbered pages in the volumes have not been filmed.

#### Series Listings and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The records of the Superintendent of Education include three volumes of letters sent: two volumes of fair copies and one volume of press copies.

The two volumes of fair copies of letters sent, November 30, 1866-August 31, 1868, are arranged generally in chronological order and each volume contains a name index. The second volume also contains reports by the Superintendent of Education for May, June, and August 1868. From February through June 1868 there are some marginal notations in the volumes of letters sent to other related letters sent and to

endorsements and entries in the register of letters received.

The volume of press copies of letters sent, September 16, 1868-July 1, 1870, is arranged chronologically and contains an incomplete name index. Most of the press copies are of poor quality and some are partially or completely unreadable.

**REPORTS SENT.** The three series of unbound narrative reports consist of monthly, annual, and special reports from the Superintendent of Education.

The monthly reports dated March and April 1866 are drafts of reports made to the Assistant Commissioner, and the reports dated March and April 1868 are apparently retained copies of reports made to Commissioner Howard.

The three annual reports of the Superintendent of Education are dated 1866, 1867, and 1868. The annual reports summarize educational developments in the State during the previous year and provide statistics on schools, teachers, and pupils. The Superintendent of Education submitted the reports to the Assistant Commissioner who used the statistics in preparing his own annual report. Other general reports of the Superintendent of Education are included in volume 5 of letters sent among the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Alabama (roll 2 of Microfilm Publication M809).

Two special reports dated May 25, 1866, and February 9, 1867, to the Assistant Commissioner concern inspection visits made by the Superintendent.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** Endorsements sent are characteristic of 19th century recordkeeping practices. A reply to an incoming letter was frequently written on the letter itself or on a specially prepared wrapper. The reply, known as an endorsement, was then copied into an endorsement book, and the endorsed letter was returned to the sender or forwarded to another office. Endorsement books also usually include a summary of the incoming letter and sometimes previous endorsements that were recorded on it.

The volume of endorsements sent, January 17-November 17, 1868, is arranged chronologically and contains a name index. The endorsements relate to the register of letters received for the same period. Most endorsements include citations to related entries in the register of letters received. There are also some citations to related letters sent.

**REGISTER OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** Registers of letters received are also typical of 19th century recordkeeping practices. In addition to a summary of the contents of the incoming letter, the registers usually include such identifying information as the name and sometimes the office of the writer, the date of receipt,

the date of the communication, the place from which it was written, and the entry number assigned.

The entries in the register of letters received, January 1868-January 1869, are arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent and thereunder chronologically. There is also a name index in the volume. Marginal notations are to letters sent and endorsements. The letters entered in the register are filmed as a unit before the unregistered series of letters received.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** The letters received consist of both registered and unregistered series. The registered letters received, January-December 1868, are arranged alphabetically and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt; they constitute most of the incoming correspondence for that year. The unregistered letters received, December 1865-July 1870, are arranged chronologically by year, thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of the correspondent's surname, and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt. Both series include correspondence written to individuals other than the Superintendent of Education but which was forwarded to and retained by his office. Letters written by and subsequently returned to the Superintendent of Education are also included. Such letters have been filed alphabetically by the Superintendent's surname.

**ORDERS RECEIVED.** The unbound series of special orders received, primarily from Bureau headquarters in Washington, November 6, 1865-March 7, 1870, is arranged chronologically.

**FORM REPORTS PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS.** Among the records of the Superintendent of Education are four unbound series of reports prepared on forms. There are retained copies of monthly school reports submitted by the Superintendent to Bureau headquarters in Washington, and reports received by the Superintendent from subordinates. The reports received include surveys of educational conditions in the subdistricts and monthly school reports by district superintendents and by teachers.

The monthly school reports of the Superintendent of Education, February 1866-June 1870, are generally arranged in chronological order. The information given on the form is largely statistical and relates to pupils, teachers, and schools. A change in the form during the summer of 1866, and another change in early 1869 that required the submission of separate forms on schools and teachers, made more information available.

The surveys of educational conditions received from the subdistricts, March 1867-November 1868, are arranged alphabetically by the name of the subdistrict. Most of the reports were submitted on forms containing 16 questions relating to the current number of schools in

operation and teachers employed, the need for additional schools and teachers, and the efforts and ability of the freedmen and the aid societies to meet the educational needs of the subdistrict.

The monthly school reports of the district superintendents, January 1866-June 1870, are arranged chronologically by month and thereunder alphabetically by name of the subdistrict. The reports are statistical in nature and were often submitted on a variety of forms. The reports from the district superintendents give essentially the same kind of information as that given on reports prepared by the Superintendent and were evidently used by him in compiling his reports. Beginning in January 1868, a 19-question form is interfiled with the regular monthly school reports. This form is similar in structure and purpose to the 16-question form relating to educational conditions. One additional question was asked, however, concerning public sentiment toward the education of blacks and impoverished white persons.

The arrangement of the teachers' monthly school reports, March 1866-June 1870, is generally chronological by month and thereunder alphabetical by name of county or of subdistrict. The forms used until the summer of 1866 were essentially the same as those used by the State Superintendent and district superintendents at that time; thereafter, a questionnaire was used. Both forms give statistics concerning pupils taught and subjects studied.

**OTHER RECORDS.** The miscellaneous account book, 1867-68, is arranged by type of record. Included are some lists of expenditures of school buildings, school supplies, and teachers' salaries; a register of payments received from Bureau headquarters in Washington for the period from July 1867 to May 1868; and names and addresses of teachers.

The unbound miscellaneous papers, 1865-70, are arranged by subject in accordance with an index system prepared by the Adjutant General's Office. Most of the papers are records of Bureau expenditures, but there are also some lists of teachers and a descriptive list of Bureau-owned school buildings.

1. Letters Sent:
  - Volume 1 (52), Nov. 30, 1866-Jan. 27, 1868;
  - Volume 2 (53), Feb. 13-Aug. 31, 1868;
  - Press Copies of Letters Sent, Volume (54), Sept. 16, 1868-July 1, 1860;
  - Reports Sent: Monthly, Mar. and Apr. 1866; Mar. and Apr. 1868; Annual, 1866-68;
  - Special, May 25, 1866;
  - Feb. 9, 1867;
  - Endorsements Sent, Volume (55)
  - Jan. 27-Nov. 27, 1868 ..... \$6
2. Register of Letters Received (51), Jan. 1868-Jan. 1869;
  - Letters Received: (Entered in Register (51)), 1868 ..... 7



3. Unregistered Letters, Dec. 1865-July 1870 .....	\$9
4. Special Orders Received, Nov. 6, 1865- Mar. 7, 1870; School Reports: Monthly Reports of the Superintendent of Education, Feb. 1866-June 1870; Surveys of Educational Conditions in the Subdistricts, Mar. 1867-Nov. 1868 .....	5
5. Monthly Reports of the District Superintendents, Jan. 1866-June 1870 .....	7
6. Monthly Reports of Teachers, Mar. 1866-Feb. 1869 .....	9
7. Monthly Reports of Teachers, Mar. 1869-June 1870 ....	8
8. Miscellaneous Account Book, 1867-68; Miscellaneous Papers, 1865-70 .....	5

**Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869. M798. 36 rolls. \$296\***

On the 36 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. A few papers are dated as early as 1862. The records consist of 34 volumes of communications sent, registers, and orders issued; and of unbound letters and reports received and miscellaneous papers. The documents were created or received by the Assistant Commissioner and two staff officers, the Assistant Adjutant General and the Assistant Inspector General.

The Assistant Commissioner assigned to both Georgia and South Carolina was Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who established his headquarters at Beaufort, S.C., in June 1865. He assigned to Brig. Gen. Edward A. Wild the responsibility for Bureau affairs in part of Georgia. In September 1865, after Wild was relieved from duty, the Office of Assistant Commissioner for Georgia was established, and Brig. Gen. Davis Tillson was appointed as Acting Assistant Commissioner, with exclusive control of all matters concerning the Bureau in Georgia. Tillson reported to General Saxton in South Carolina until December 1865, when he was ordered to report thereafter directly to Commissioner Howard at Washington.

The organization of the Bureau in Georgia was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, a Superintendent of Education, and a Surgeon in Chief. Officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner carried out the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts into which the State was divided.

During the relatively brief period of its existence, the office of the Assistant Commissioner for Georgia was located in four different cities and headed by three different officers. General Tillson first established his

headquarters at Augusta in September 1865 but moved it to Savannah in October 1866. Col. Caleb C. Sibley succeeded Tillson as Assistant Commissioner in January 1867, and 2 months later he moved the headquarters from Savannah to Macon. It remained there until July 1867, when the office was transferred to Atlanta. In October 1868 Sibley relinquished charge of Bureau affairs to Maj. John R. Lewis, who served as Assistant Commissioner until the office was discontinued in May 1869.

From January to May 1869 Major Lewis combined the duties of Assistant Commissioner with those of Superintendent of Education. After the Office of the Assistant Commissioner was discontinued, Lewis continued to serve as Superintendent of Education until May 1870. However, the records of the two offices were not combined.

### Series Listing and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The nine volumes of letters sent, October 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged in chronological order. They consist mainly of press copies of letters and telegrams sent by the Assistant Commissioner and the Assistant Adjutant General. Also included are copies of letters sent by the Assistant Inspector General and the Assistant Commissary of Subsistence. A name index is at the beginning of each volume.

The legibility of some of the letters is poor, and a few are not readable. The last part of volume 2 of letters sent is missing, which is the reason for the gap in dates from February 21 to March 6, 1866. Letters sent by Assistant Commissioner Tillson from Savannah in March 1866 were copied into the volume of special field orders issued and are reproduced on roll 34 of this microfilm publication.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** The six volumes of endorsements sent, October 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged in chronological order. In the left margin of the pages is the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent. Fractions are entered in the left margin throughout volume 1 and in part of volume 2. The numerator is the number of the page in a volume on which there is a subsequent endorsement. Frequently noted is the page number on which the incoming letter was entered in the register of letters received. A name index to volumes 1 and 2 has been filmed before volume 1.

**REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** Another recordkeeping practice of the day was that of entering incoming communications into registers of letters received. The entries in the registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which it was written, an

abstract of its contents, an abstract of the contents of the enclosures, the date of receipt of the letter, and the register entry number assigned to it.

The five volumes of registers of letters received, October 1865-May 1869, are arranged in two ways. The entries in registers 1-3 are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt of communication. In addition, in registers 2 and 3 the letters were assigned entry numbers with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division. The entries in registers 4 and 5 are arranged in chronological order by date of receipt, with a separate numerical sequence for each register. A name index book to register 5 has been filmed before the register.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives and Records Service has filmed the registers in correct order; therefore some of the pages are not in the original numerical sequence. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

The registers contain several abbreviations. "E & M" refers to the series of endorsement books and "LRB" to the registers of letters received. In each case the numeral after the abbreviation in the register is the page number in the endorsement book or in the register of letters received.

Not all letters entered in the registers are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. Some letters were forwarded to Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., and others were sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives and Records Service has placed an asterisk (\*) in the registers near the entry number of each letter that is still in the series of registered letters received.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner, the Assistant Adjutant General, and the Assistant Inspector General are in four unbound series—one series of registered letters and three series of unregistered letters, telegrams, and letters relating to appointments.

The letters entered in the registers of letters received, September 1865-April 1869, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The file citation on a letter entered in registers 2-5 includes the volume number of the register, the page on which it is entered, and the entry number assigned to the letter. The letters entered in register 1 usually have no file citations.

The unregistered letters received, September 1865-January 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent. Letters received from Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., are at the beginning of the file for each year. The letters have no file citations, and no

entries will be found for them in the registers of letters received. Some of the letters dated September 1865 are addressed to General Wild.

The unregistered telegrams received, September 1865-November 1868, are arranged chronologically, and no entries will be found for them in the registers of letters received.

The unregistered letters received relating to appointments, July 1865-October 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname of applicant. Included are applications, recommendations, and acceptances of positions in the Bureau, and form letters of appointment and revocation received from Bureau headquarters at Washington. The letters that predate September 1865 seem to have been referred to General Wild, and those that post-date April 1869 relate to positions in the Office of the Superintendent of Education.

Filmed after the letters relating to appointments is a series of test oaths, 1866-69, which are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of individuals who signed the oath. According to an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), every person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States was required to take an oath of loyalty to the United States.

**REPORTS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are two unbound series of reports: reports of operations and reports of murders and outrages.

The reports of operations, 1866-68, are arranged chronologically. They consist mainly of copies of reports sent to the Commissioner about the Bureau's activities in Georgia. The series includes the Assistant Commissioner's annual report for September 1865-November 1866; the Assistant Commissioner's monthly reports, February-August 1867, October-May 1868, and August-November 1868; and also two reports by the Surgeon in Chief to the Assistant Commissioner for October 1866-September 1867 and October-December 1868.

The reports received from subassistant commissioners and agents relating to murders and outrages, 1866-68, are arranged chronologically. Also included is a copy of a report sent to the Commissioner concerning outrages committed upon the freedmen in Georgia during 1868. The reports usually list the name of the persons murdered or assaulted and of those accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken on the case.

Filmed after the reports of murders and outrages is a list of freedmen assaulted in the State of Georgia during 1867. The entries in the register are arranged by sub-district and give the date and place of the assault, the names of the freedmen murdered or assaulted and of those accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken on the case.



There are also three volumes of registers of reports and returns received from subordinate officers and forwarded to Bureau headquarters at Washington and to the Chief Quartermaster for Georgia, March 1867-February 1869. The entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of subordinate officer submitting the report and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt. The entries in the registers give the date of receipt of the report, the name of the person submitting the report, the date of the report, the place of origin, the nature of the report, the name of the officer to whom the report was referred, and a copy of the endorsement written on the report. There are no entries for many letters of the alphabet. An incomplete name index is at the beginning of volume 1.

**ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are a register of orders sent to subordinate officers, a name and subject index, a volume of orders and circulars issued, a volume of special field orders issued, and unbound orders and circulars received and issued.

The entries in the register of orders, circulars, and forms sent to subordinate officers, April 1867-July 1868, are generally arranged in chronological order. The entry usually gives the date the document was sent, the name of the officer, his station, and the number and type of document sent. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

A name and subject index to the general and special orders only has been filmed before the volume of orders and circulars. In the volume of general orders, special orders, and circulars and circular letters issued, September 1865-May 1869, the orders are arranged by type of order, thereunder chronologically, and are numbered in sequence. The circular letters, which are interfiled with the circulars, are also arranged chronologically but are not numbered. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

In the volume of special field orders issued at Savannah during 1866, the orders are arranged chronologically. On pages 101-104 are copies of letters sent from Savannah in March 1866.

The unbound orders and circulars, 1865-69, are arranged by type of order or circular, thereunder by whether received or issued, and thereunder chronologically.

**STATION BOOKS AND ROSTERS.** The entries in the two volumes of station books, 1867-69, usually give the name of the officer or the civilian on duty in the Bureau, his station, the position held, the date and order assigning him to duty, and the date and order relieving him from duty. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner is listed first and then the officers and civilians on duty in the subdistricts. A name index is at the beginning of

volume 1. Volume 2 contains only four pages of information.

There is also a volume listing the civilian agents on duty in Georgia, 1865-67. The volume consists of two registers containing duplicate information; one register is arranged alphabetically by name of county and the other, alphabetically by name of agent. The entries give the name of the county, the county seat, the name of the agent, the date of his appointment, by whom recommended, and the date he was relieved of duty. There are no entries in the registers for some letters of the alphabet.

The unbound rosters of officers and civilian agents on duty in Georgia in December 1866 and August 1867-November 1868 are arranged chronologically. The lists are mainly printed rosters.

**MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS.** On the last roll of this microfilm publication is a register of land titles issued to freedmen and some unbound miscellaneous papers, 1865-69. The entries in the register, April-September 1865, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of former owner. Entries do not appear under every letter of the alphabet. The miscellaneous papers are arranged by type of record and consist mainly of documents relating to court cases, reports and papers relating to lands, and a few copies of letters sent. A few of the papers are dated as early as 1862.

*Letters sent:*

1. Vol. 1 (11), Oct. 9, 1865-Jan. 1866;  
Vol. 2 (12), Jan. 3-Feb. 21, 1866 ..... \$7
2. Vol. 3 (13), Mar. 6-May 28, 1866 ..... 6
3. Vol. 4 (14), May 28-Oct. 9, 1866 ..... 7
4. Vol. 5 (15), Oct. 10, 1866-Feb. 4, 1867 ..... 6
5. Vol. 6 (16), Feb. 4-May 17, 1867;  
Vol. 7 (17), May 17-July 25, 1867 ..... 7
6. Vol. 8 (18), July 25, 1867-Jan. 18, 1868 ..... 6
7. Vol. 9 (19), Jan. 18, 1868-May 10, 1869 ..... 6

*Endorsements sent:*

8. Name index (21 1/2):  
Vol. 1 (20), Oct. 13, 1865-Nov. 23, 1866;  
Vol. 2 (21), Nov. 26, 1866-May 9, 1867 ..... 6
9. Vol. 3 (22), May 9-Oct. 2, 1867;  
Vol. 4 (23), Oct. 2, 1867-Mar. 19, 1868 ..... 7
10. Vol. 5 (24), Mar. 19-Dec. 10, 1868;  
Vol. 6 (25), Dec. 10, 1868-May 7, 1869 ..... 6

*Registers of letters received:*

11. Vol. 1 (1), Oct. 1865-Nov. 1866;  
Vol. 2 (2), Nov. 1866-June 1867 ..... 6
12. Vol. 3 (3), June-Dec. 1867;  
Vol. 4 (4), Jan.-Sept. 1868;  
Name index (7) to Vol. 5 (6);  
Vol. 5 (6), Oct. 1868-May 1869 ..... 7

*Letters received:*

(Entered in register 1):

13. A-W, Sept. 1865-Nov. 1866 .....\$6

(Entered in register 2):

14. A-G, Aug. 1866-June 1867 ..... 7

15. H-R, Aug. 1866-June 1867 ..... 7

16. S-Y, Aug. 1866-June 1867 ..... 6

(Entered in register 3):

17. A-F, May-Dec. 1867 ..... 7

18. G-P, May-Dec. 1867 ..... 7

19. R-W, May-Dec. 1867 ..... 7

(Entered in register 4):

20. 1-999, Dec. 1867-Apr. 1868 ..... 8

21. 1000-2099, Apr.-Aug. 1868 ..... 7

22. 2100-2309, Aug.-Sept. 1868 ..... 6

(Entered in register 5):

23. 2-672, Sept. 1868-Apr. 1869 ..... 7

*Unregistered documents:**Letters received:*

24. A-W, 1865 ..... 7

25. A-C, 1866 ..... 8

26. D-F, 1866 ..... 6

27. G-L, 1866 ..... 8

28. M-R, 1866 ..... 8

29. S-Y, 1866 ..... 8

30. A-Y, 1867-69 ..... 7

31. Telegrams received, Sept. 1865-Nov. 1868; letters received relating to appointments, July 1865-Oct. 1869; test oaths, 1866-69 ..... 8

32. Reports: operations, 1866-68; murders and outrages, 1865-68; list of freedmen murdered or assaulted (32), 1867 ..... 6

33. Registers of reports received from subordinate officers: Vol. 1 (8), Mar.-Sept. 1867; Vol. 2 (9), Sept. 1867-May 1868; Vol. 3 (10), May 1868-Feb. 1869 ..... 8

34. Orders and Circulars:  
Name and subject index (27) to orders; orders and circulars issued (26), 1865-69; special field orders issued (28), 1866; unbound orders and circulars received and issued, 1865-69; register of orders sent (35) 1867-69 ..... 7*Other Records:*

35. Station books: Vol. 1 (29), 1867-68; Vol. 2 (30), 1869; registers of civilian agents (31), 1865-67; rosters of officers and civilian agents, Dec. 1866, Aug. 1867-Nov. 1868 ..... 5

36. Register of land titles issued to freedmen (33), Apr.-Sept. 1865; unbound miscellaneous papers, 1862-69 ..... \$7

**Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870. M799. 28 rolls. \$194\***

On the 28 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Georgia, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. The records consist of 14 volumes of letters sent, registers, and accounting records, and unbound letters and reports received.

The Assistant Commissioner assigned to both Georgia and South Carolina was Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who established his headquarters at Beaufort, S.C., in June 1865. He assigned to Brig. Gen. Edward A. Wild the responsibility for Bureau affairs in part of Georgia. In September 1865, after Wild was relieved from duty, the Office of Assistant Commissioner for Georgia was established, and Brig. Gen. Davis Tillson was appointed as Acting Assistant Commissioner, with exclusive control of all matters concerning the Bureau in Georgia. Tillson reported to General Saxton in South Carolina until December 1865, when he was ordered to report thereafter directly to Commissioner Howard at Washington.

The organization of the Bureau in Georgia was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, a Superintendent of Education, and a Surgeon in Chief. Officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner carried out the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts into which the State was divided.

In the summer of 1865 Commissioner Howard ordered assistant commissioners to designate a superintendent of schools for each State. Consequently, in October 1865 General Saxton appointed G. L. Eberhart as Superintendent of Schools for Georgia and ordered him to report to General Tillson.

The Superintendent of Schools (later called Education) was responsible for executing Bureau policies relating to the education of freedmen. The Bureau promoted the establishment of schools for freedmen by offering advice, protection, and financial assistance to local citizens interested in starting schools. The Superintendent frequently acted as an intermediary between freedmen and members of benevolent societies that offered to provide teachers and aid for the schools. The Superintendent corresponded with State and local authorities, with teachers, and with Bureau officers stationed in the subdistricts. He collected information



about the schools and about the attitudes of the white populace toward the education of the freedman and reported his findings to the Bureau headquarters at Washington.

Changes occurred in both the personnel and the administrative organization of the Office of the Superintendent of Education. Superintendent Eberhart and Edward A. Ware, who succeeded him in August 1867, were members of the staff of the Assistant Commissioner. In January 1869 Commissioner Howard ordered the Assistant Commissioner, Maj. John R. Lewis, to also assume the duties of Superintendent of Education. Although Lewis served in both capacities until May 1869, when the Office of the Assistant Commissioner was discontinued, he did not combine the records of the two offices. He was relieved of his duties as Superintendent of Education in May 1870. Ware, who had been acting as Assistant Superintendent, remained in Georgia as Acting Superintendent until August 1870, when all Bureau officers except the claims agents were withdrawn from the State.

#### Series Listings and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The six volumes of letters sent, August 1, 1867-August 8, 1870, are arranged in chronological order. They consist of press copies of letters sent by the Superintendent of Education, although the volumes also include copies of a few letters sent by the Assistant Superintendent of Education and by the Inspector of Schools. The legibility of some of the letters is poor and a few are not readable. A name index is at the beginning of each volume.

**REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** According to recordkeeping practices of the day, incoming communications were entered in registers of letters received. The entries in the five volumes of registers of letters received, September 1865-July 1870, are generally arranged in chronological order, with a separate numerical sequence for each volume. The entries in the registers usually give the data of receipt of the letter, the name of the author, the date of the letter, the place of origin, an abstract of the contents, and the number of the register entry. Some of the endorsements, which were written either by the Superintendent of Education or by officers forwarding the communications to him, have been copied into the registers. A name index is at the beginning of each register. The number in the index refers to the page number in the register on which the letter is entered and not to the number of the register entry.

Not all letters entered in the registers are among the series of letters received by the Superintendent of Education. Some letters were forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner or to the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C., and others were returned to the sender. The

National Archives has placed an asterisk (\*) near the register entry number of the letters that are still among the letters received.

On pages 330 and 358 of register 1 are miscellaneous memorandums relating to books and to financial aid for freedmen's schools.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** The letters received by the Superintendent of Education, September 1865-July 1870, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The file citation on the letters gives the volume number of the register, the page number, and the entry number. A few unregistered letters and telegrams, 1865-70, are filed at the end of the series of letters received.

**SCHOOL REPORTS.** There are two series of monthly school reports: reports from Bureau officers (agents and subassistant commissioners stationed in the subdistricts) and reports from the teachers of freedmen's schools. Generally both reports were submitted on printed forms and both give statistical information about the schools.

The reports from the agents and the subassistant commissioners, January 1867-December 1868, are arranged by month and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of name of county. They usually list the names and locations of the schools and the societies that sponsored them. The reports show whether the schools were maintained by the freedmen or by societies, whether the building was supplied by the Bureau or owned by the freedmen, the amount of tuition paid by the freedmen, and the Bureau's expenses for the school. The reports also give information concerning the pupils at each school as follows: sex, color, number of pupils over 16 years of age, degree of literacy, number of pupils in geography, arithmetic, writing, needlework, and the "higher branches," and the number who were free before the war. Letters of transmittal are occasionally interfiled with the reports.

Beginning in 1868 and interfiled with the reports described previously are forms submitted by the agent or subassistant commissioner concerning education in the subdistrict. The 19 questions on the form relate to the number of schools, the location of each school, the number of visits by the officer to the school, the establishment of new schools in the area, and the public sentiment toward education for the freedmen.

The monthly school reports from teachers, October 1865-July 1870, are arranged by month. The reports usually give statistics about the number of pupils, attendance habits, and degree of literacy. They also give information about the financial assistance received by the school.

**ACCOUNTING RECORDS.** Reproduced on the last roll of this microfilm publication are two registers of ex-

penditures and one volume of miscellaneous lists and memorandums. Many of the numbered pages in the three volumes are blank, and they have not been filmed.

The first register contains a list of monthly expenditures from the Congressional appropriation, May 1869-June 1870, and a list of monthly expenditures from the school fund, June 1869-May 1870. Each list is arranged chronologically. The second register contains entries of expenditures for freedmen's schools, 1867-70. The entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of name of town or city in which the school was located and thereunder chronologically.

The volume of miscellaneous lists and memorandums, 1865-70, contains abstracts of school reports, lists of delegates to the educational convention held at Macon in May 1867, lists of teachers, and an annual report on operations written by the Superintendent of Education in October 1866.

*Letters sent:*

1. Vol. 1 (40), Aug. 1, 1867-Feb. 29, 1868 .....	\$6
2. Vol. 2 (41), Feb. 29, 1868-Mar. 24, 1869 .....	7
3. Vol. 3 (42), Mar. 24-July 27, 1869 .....	6
4. Vol. 4 (43), July 27, 1869-Feb. 8, 1870 .....	7
5. Vol. 5 (44), Feb. 8-June 13, 1870;	
Vol. 6 (45), June 14-Aug. 8, 1870 .....	7

*Registers of letters received:*

6. Vol. 1 (148), Sept. 1865-July 1867;	
Vol. 2 (36), July 1867-June 1868;	
Vol. 3 (37), June 1868-June 1869 .....	6
7. Vol. 4 (38), May 1869-Apr. 1870;	
Vol. 5 (39), Apr.-July 1870 .....	6

*Letters received:*

(Entered in register 1):	
8. 1-499, Sept. 1865-July 1867 .....	8
(Entered in register 2):	
9. 1-499, July 1867-Jan. 1868 .....	8
10. 500-797, Jan.-June 1868;	
(Entered in register 3):	
11. 1-199 .....	8
12. 200-799, Oct. 1868-Mar. 1869 .....	8
13. 800-1053, Mar.-May 1869;	
(Entered in register 4):	
14. 1-199, May-July 1869 .....	7
15. 200-649, July-Nov. 1869 .....	7
16. 650-1269, Nov. 1869-Mar. 1870 .....	8
(Entered in register 5):	
17. 1-390, Mar.-July 1870;	
Unregistered letters and telegrams	
received, 1865-70 .....	7
School reports from agents and subassistant	
commissioners:	
18. Jan. 1867-Jan. 1868 .....	7
19. Feb.-Apr. 1868 .....	7
20. May-July 1868 .....	6
21. Aug.-Dec. 1868 .....	7
School reports from teachers:	
22. Oct. 1865-Aug. 1867 .....	8
23. Sept. 1867-May 1868 .....	7
24. June-Dec. 1868 .....	7

23. Jan.-Apr. 1869 .....	\$7
24. May-July 1869 .....	6
25. Aug.-Dec. 1869 .....	7
26. Jan.-Mar. 1870 .....	7
27. Apr.-July 1870 .....	7
28. Accounting records:	
Registers of expenditures from the Congressional	
appropriation and from the school fund, vol. 46, May	
1869-June 1870; register of expenditures for freed-	
men's schools, vol. 47, 1867-70; miscellaneous lists	
and memorandums, 1865-70 .....	5

**Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. M826. 50 rolls. \$332\***

On the 50 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69. They consist of 41 volumes and approximately 30 feet of unbound records. The volumes include letters and endorsements sent; registers of letters received; orders issued and received; registers of indentures and marriages; a register of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received; and index books. The unbound records consist mainly of letters received, orders, reports, freedmen's labor contracts, and a few miscellaneous papers. Created or received in the office of the Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi, the records generally are addressed to or bear the signature of either the Assistant Commissioner or the Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

The first assistant Commissioner of Mississippi was Col. Samuel Thomas, who established his headquarters at Vicksburg in June 1865. Before his appointment to the Freedmen's Bureau, Colonel Thomas served in Mississippi within Chaplain John Eaton's "Freedmen's Department" of the Department of Tennessee. During the Civil War, several commanders of military departments delegated the superintendence of freedmen's affairs in occupied areas to special organizations, often referred to as "Freedmen's Departments." The functions and activities of the Freedmen's Department in Mississippi were similar to those of the later Freedmen's Bureau. Although the size and organization of the office varied from time to time, the Assistant Commissioner's staff usually included an Acting Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Surgeon in Chief, a Superintendent of Education, a Disbursing Officer, and a Chief Commissary of Subsistence.

At first the officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner were organized in an hierarchical manner. The State of Mississippi and the parishes of Madison, Carroll, Concordia, and Tensas in northeastern Louisiana were divided into the Western, Southern, and Northern Districts, with an Acting Assistant Commissioner in charge of each district. Subassistant commissioners in



charge of subdistricts, which usually encompassed several counties, reported directly to the Acting Assistant Commissioners, who, in turn, reported to the Assistant Commissioner. In January 1866, the Louisiana parishes were placed within the jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner for Louisiana. In March 1866 the three districts were discontinued; thereafter, the sub-assistant commissioners or the civilian agents in charge of subdistricts reported directly to the Assistant Commissioner.

The policies and programs of the Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi were established by the Assistant Commissioner and administered primarily through subordinate officers. Bureau officials, in cooperation with benevolent societies, established schools for freedmen and issued food, clothing, and medical supplies to refugees and freedmen. They approved or disapproved freedmen's labor contracts and indentures, investigated freedmen's complaints, kept registers of the marriages of freedmen, and helped black soldiers and sailors to file and collect claims for bounties, pensions, and pay arrearages. In addition, the Assistant Commissioner maintained several freedmen's hospitals and colonies for destitute freedmen, and provided transportation to return refugees to their homes or to convey freedmen to distant jobs.

In 1865 and 1866 much of the work of the Assistant Commissioner concerned the custody of abandoned property of former supporters of the Confederacy. Officers of the Bureau leased much of the abandoned property and used the proceeds to finance Bureau activities. The Assistant Commissioner maintained colonies for destitute freedmen on several of the abandoned plantations and sometimes utilized abandoned buildings as Bureau offices. The Assistant Commissioner, however, with the approval of the Commissioner of the Bureau, restored most of the property to former owners who signed loyalty oaths or received Presidential pardons.

Colonel Thomas was succeeded by three other officers who acted as both assistant commissioners and military commanders in Mississippi. In April 1866 Gen. Thomas J. Wood was appointed Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi; he was succeeded in January 1867 by Gen. Alvan C. Gillem. Appointed Assistant Commissioner in March 1869, Gen. Adelbert Ames established his headquarters at Jackson and supervised the closing of the office of the Assistant Commissioner. The appointment of General Ames was revoked April 30, 1869.

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Office of the Adjutant General. Clerks in the Adjutant General's Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parentheses. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

### Series Listing and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The seven letter books, June 1865-May 1869, consist of press copies of letters, telegrams, and reports sent by the Assistant Commissioner and the Acting Assistant Adjutant General. The communications in the letter books are generally arranged in chronological order. There are name indexes in each of the first six volumes, and there is also a subject index book for the first volume. Filmed before the seventh letter book is a name index prepared by the National Archives.

Frequently noted in the first three volumes are the entry numbers of letters received relating to the communications in the letter books. Sometimes citations of special orders or endorsements relating to the letters are also given.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** According to the record-keeping practices of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or the Acting Assistant Adjutant General wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or statements were copied into endorsement books with a summary of the contents of the incoming communication and also the previous endorsements that had been written on the communication.

The three volumes of endorsements sent, June 1865-May 1869, are generally arranged chronologically. In the left margin of the pages in the endorsement books are the names of the persons or titles of the officers to whom the endorsements were sent. There are frequently references in the style of a fraction in the left margin also. The numerator is the number of the page in the same volume on which a preceding endorsement to the same addressee appears, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent endorsement. Usually noted is the entry number of the incoming letter in the register of letters received or the page number of a previous endorsement written by the office of the Assistant Commissioner on the communication. There are name index books for each of the endorsement books and also a subject index book for the first volume. Since the name index books for the first and third endorsement books are incomplete, the National Archives has prepared additions to both indexes.

**REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** Another recordkeeping practice of the day was the entering of incoming communications into registers of letters received. The registers include such information as the



name or office of the correspondent, the date of the letter, the place from which it was written, an abstract of its contents, the date of receipt of the letter, and the entry number assigned to it. Often there are notations in the left margin of the page in the register indicating action taken regarding the communication, such as the page number of an endorsement or a letter subsequently written in response to the letter received.

The entries in the five volumes of registers of letters received, June 1865-May 1869, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname or office of the sender and thereunder by date of receipt of the communication. Each entry was assigned a number, with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division in the first four registers. The fifth register has a numerical sequence for each year within each alphabetical division.

Communications from staff officers, written at the direction of their commanding officers, are usually entered in the name of the superior officer. Letters from the executive departments of the U.S. Government are entered under the first letter of the department's or bureau's title: "W" for War Department, "P" for the President of the United States, and "R" for the headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Communications from the Assistant Commissioner's staff or subordinate officers in Mississippi are usually entered in the name of the sender.

There are name and subject indexes in the first register, and name and subject index books for the second register. The remaining registers have name index books.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it was necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives has filmed the registers in corrected order so that the pages are no longer necessarily in numerical sequence. Blank pages have not been filmed.

The dates given for each register refer to the dates that the first and the last letters entered in that register were received in the office of the Assistant Commissioner. Although the inclusive dates received of the first three registers overlap, the first register contains only those letters written in 1865; the second register, those letters written in 1866; and the third register, those letters written in 1867.

Not all of the letters entered in the registers are still among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. Some letters were forwarded to the Bureau headquarters at Washington; others were referred to staff officers or sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has placed an asterisk in the registers near the entry numbers of the letters that are in the series of registered letters received. Often, related letters were filed together in the series of regis-

tered letters received. Notations in the registers, beneath the entry numbers of related letters filed together, indicate the location of the collective file in the series.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner and the Acting Assistant Adjutant General are in two unbound series, registered letters and unregistered letters.

The letters and telegrams entered in the registers of letters received, June 1865-May 1869, are arranged in the order in which they are entered in the registers. The series also includes those reports received by the Assistant Commissioner that were entered in the registers of letters received. The reports are primarily monthly narrative reports from subassistant commissioners and civilian agents, and most are dated 1865 and 1866. The file citation includes the entry number of the letter, telegram, or report, and the year.

The unregistered letters and telegrams, August 1865-April 1869, are arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent. Some of the letters have file citations, but none of the citations are from the registers of the Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi. A name index prepared by the National Archives is filmed before the unregistered letters.

**ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three volumes of issuances, a register of orders received, a printed manual for Bureau officials in Mississippi, and a register of property restored. There is also an unbound series of orders and circulars received.

The volume of general orders and circulars issued by the Assistant Commissioner, June 1865-December 1868, is arranged by type of issuance, thereunder by year, and thereunder numerically. The general orders consist primarily of issuance outlining the general policies of the Bureau. Several of the general orders are reprints of letters of instructions from the Commissioner of the Bureau, the Secretary of War, and the President of the United States. The circulars are mostly policy directives published for the general information and guidance of the Bureau officials in Mississippi. There is a name index book for the general orders.

The volume of special orders and property orders issued by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, is arranged by type of issuance, thereunder by year, and thereunder numerically. The special orders, June 1865-December 1868, consist of issuances concerning specific individuals on matters such as transportation, appointments, special assignments, and purchases. The property orders, August 1865-August 1866, consist of directives restoring abandoned lands and buildings to their former owners. Name index books for both the special orders and the property orders have been filmed before the issuances to which they refer.



The "scrapbook" of orders and circulars issued and received, 1867-68, consists of printed orders and circulars that have been pasted in the volume. The "scrapbook" includes the following: orders issued by Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, Commander of the 4th Military District; general orders and circulars issued by Assistant Commissioner Gillem; and general orders and a circular issued by Gillem in his capacity as Military Commander of the Subdistrict of Mississippi. The volume is arranged by origin of order, thereunder by type of order, and thereunder chronologically.

The register of orders and circulars received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1866, provides such information as the origin of the issuance, the date and number of the issuance, and an abstract of its contents. Most of the orders are from Bureau headquarters at Washington, military commanders, or subordinate officials of the Bureau in Mississippi. The entries in the register are arranged and numbered chronologically.

The digest of orders and instructions to subassistant commissioners was compiled in the office of the Assistant Commissioner and printed in 1866. The manual includes copies of several orders and circulars and summaries of instructions on bookkeeping methods and on such subjects relating to freedmen's contracts, the administration of justice, orphans, vagrancy, and marriage.

The entries in the register of property restored by the Assistant Commissioner, July-October 1865, usually provide such information as the date of the application for the restoration of property, the name of the applicant, a description of the property, and the date and number of the order that returned the property. The register is generally arranged chronologically according to the date the property was restored. There is a name index in the volume.

The unbound series of orders and circulars received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, is arranged by type of order, and thereunder chronologically. The series includes general orders, special orders, and circulars.

**REPORTS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are six unbound series of reports and one volume of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received. None of the reports in the series of unbound or bound reports were entered in the registers of letters received.

The narrative reports received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68, consist of monthly reports from subassistant commissioners and civilian agents, and concern destitution, complaints of freedmen, freedmen's labor contracts and marital problems, administration of State laws, and general operations of the subdistricts. The reports are generally arranged chronologically, and most of them are dated 1867 and 1868.

The series of land reports, 1865-66, consists of monthly tabular reports compiled by special agents of the Treasury Department, acting assistant commis-

sioners, and subassistant commissioners. Arranged chronologically, the reports describe abandoned property and its use by the Bureau. Also included is a list, compiled in the office of the Assistant Commissioner, of property transferred to the Assistant Commissioner for Louisiana in January 1866.

The series of ration reports, August 1865-March 1869, consists of monthly tabular reports received from subassistant commissioners, hospitals, and orphanages. Arranged chronologically, the reports list the numbers of refugees and freedmen issued rations, clothing, or medical supplies.

The series of miscellaneous reports from subordinate officers, 1865-67, includes tabular reports from subassistant commissioners, hospitals, and orphanages. The series includes statistical reports on persons and articles hired. The series is arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically.

There is also a small series of miscellaneous reports from staff officers, July 1865-October 1867. The series includes tabular and narrative reports from the Receiving and Disbursing Officer, Assistant Inspector General, Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Superintendent of Schools, Surgeon in Chief, and Commissary of Subsistence. The reports are arranged chronologically.

Finally, the series of unbound reports includes a short series of tabular reports compiled by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-69. The series consists of monthly reports of Assistant Commissioners Thomas and Gillem concerning rations, transportation, and rents. The reports are arranged chronologically.

The entries in the register of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received by the Assistant Commissioner, January 1866-August 1867, are generally arranged and numbered chronologically. Most of the reports, vouchers, and requisitions registered are from Bureau officials in Mississippi, and concern financial matters that were subsequently referred to the Receiving and Disbursing Officer. There is a name index in the register. Also contained within the volume is a register of letters received by the Freedmen's Department, January-March 1865.

A small series of miscellaneous records, 1865-68, is filmed immediately after the reports. The series includes several letters and affidavits relating to the transportation of freedmen, receipts, indentures, and a deed to school property. The records are arranged in chronological order.

**STATION BOOK, OATHS OF OFFICE, AND ROSTERS.** The station book, 1865-66, lists the name of an officer or civilian on duty in the Bureau, his station, the positions held, the date and order assigning him to duty, and the date and order relieving him from duty. The volume is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the officer or civilian. The number of pages

allotted to each alphabetical division in the station book sometimes proved insufficient, and the entries for a particular alphabetical division were continued elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives and Records Service has filmed the station book in corrected order so that the pages are no longer necessarily in numerical sequence.

A small series of oaths of office, 1865-68, contains oaths signed by employees of the Bureau in Mississippi. According to an act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 502), every person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States was required to take an oath of loyalty to the United States. The oaths are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the signee.

The unbound rosters of officers and civilians on duty in the Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi, March 1865-April 1869, are primarily monthly reports on printed forms compiled by the Assistant Commissioner, staff officers, and subassistant commissioners. Arranged in chronological order, the rosters list officers on duty, citizen employees, enlisted men on duty, and changes in commissioned officers. Some of the rosters are entered in the registers of letters received by the Assistant Commissioner.

**REGISTERS OF INDENTURES AND MARRIAGES OF FREEDMEN.** The Register of Indentures of Colored Orphans, August 1865-May 1866, includes such information as the date of the indenture, name and age of the orphan, term of the agreement, and the name and residence of the employer. There are only four pages in the register, in addition to two pages of duplicate indentures pasted in the volume. The entries in the register are arranged chronologically.

There are four registers of the marriages of freedmen, 1863-66. Each entry provides such information as the name, residence, and age of the couple married; date of their marriage; their color and the color of their parents; and the names of the minister and witnesses of the ceremony. The second register contains a list of ministers in Mississippi accredited by the War Department to conduct marriage services. The entries within the first, second, and fourth registers are generally arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the husband, and thereunder chronologically. The third register is arranged chronologically. The entries dated before July 1865 in the registers were compiled by the Freedmen's Department.

**LABOR CONTRACTS OF FREEDMEN.** The unbound freedmen's labor contracts, January 1865-November 1868, consist of agreements between planters and freedmen that were approved or disapproved by Bureau officials. In return for the labor of the freedmen, planters usually promised to pay them a specified wage

in addition to providing them with food, clothing, living quarters, and medical attention. The contracts are arranged chronologically by month approved or disapproved by the Bureau. Contracts dated before July 1865 were approved by the Provost Marshal of Freedmen.

#### Letters sent:

1. Subject index (15) to volume 1;  
Vol. 1 (14), June 22-Nov. 4, 1865;  
Vol. 2 (16), Nov. 4, 1865-May 29, 1866 .....\$8
2. Vol. 3 (17), May 29-Oct. 31, 1866;  
Vol. 4 (18), Nov. 1, 1866-June 13, 1867 .....7
3. Vol. 5 (19), June 14-Oct. 17, 1867;  
Vol. 6 (20), Oct. 19, 1867-Sept. 28, 1868;  
Vol. 7 (21), Sept. 26, 1868-May 1, 1869 .....8

#### Endorsements sent:

4. Name index (24) to Vol. 1;  
Subject index (25) to Vol. 1;  
Vol. 1 (23), June 26, 1865-Aug. 15, 1867;  
Name index (28) to Vol. 2;  
Vol. 2 (26), Aug. 15, 1867-Dec. 31, 1867 .....7
5. Name index (30) to Vol. 3;  
Vol. 3 (29), Jan. 1, 1868-May 3, 1869 .....6

#### Registers of letters received:

6. Vol. 1 (1), June 1865-Feb. 1866;  
Name index (5) to Vol. 2;  
Subject index (6) to Vol. 2;  
Vol. 2 (4), Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867;  
Name index (8) to Vol. 3;  
Vol. 3 (7), Jan. 1867-Aug. 1867 .....7
7. Name Index (10) to Vol. 4;  
Vol. 4 (9), Aug.-Dec. 1867;  
Name index (12) to Vol. 5;  
Vol. 5 (11), Jan. 1868-May 1869 .....6

#### Letters received:

(Entered in Volume 1, June 1865-Feb. 1866):

8. A-C .....7
9. D-F .....6
10. G-L .....6
11. M-R .....7
12. S-Z .....6

(Entered in Volume 2, Jan. 1866-Feb. 1867):

13. A-F .....6
14. G-L .....6
15. M-Q .....6
16. R .....6
17. S-Y .....6

(Entered in Volume 3, Jan.-Aug. 1867):

18. A-G .....6
19. H-P .....6
20. R-W .....7

(Entered in Volume 4, Aug.-Dec. 1867):

21. A-N .....6
22. O-Y .....6



(Entered in Volume 5, Jan. 1868-June 1869):

23. A-G .....	\$7
24. H-O .....	.7
25. P-R .....	.7
26. S-W .....	.7
27. Unregistered, Aug. 1865-Apr. 1869 .....	.7

*Orders and Circulars:*

28. Name index (32) to general orders; general orders and circulars issued (31), June 1865-Dec. 1868; Name index (34) to special orders; Name index (35) to property orders; Special orders and property orders issued (33), 1865-68; Scrapbook of orders and circulars (37), 1867-68; Register of orders and circulars received (36), 1866; Digest of orders and instructions to subassistant commissioners, 1866; Register of property restored (39), July-Oct. 1865 .....	.6
29. Orders and circulars issued and received, 1865-68 .....	.7

*Reports:*

30. Narrative reports from subordinate officers, Aug. 1865-Oct. 1867 .....	.7
31. Narrative reports from subordinate officers, Nov.-Dec. 1867 .....	.6
32. Narrative reports from subordinate officers, Jan.-June 1868 .....	.6
33. Narrative reports from subordinate officers, July-Dec. 1868 .....	.6
34. Land reports, 1865-66 .....	.5
35. Ration reports, Aug. 1865-Dec. 1866 .....	.6
36. Ration reports, Jan. 1867-Mar. 1869 .....	.6
37. Miscellaneous reports from subordinate officers, 1865-67; Miscellaneous reports from staff officers, July 1865-Oct. 1867; Tabular reports of the assistant commissioner, 1865-69; Register of reports, vouchers, and requisitions received (13), Jan. 1866-Aug. 1867; Miscellaneous records, 1865-68 .....	.6

*Station Book, Oaths, and Rosters:*

38. Station book (38), 1865-66; Oaths of office, 1865-68; Rosters, Mar. 1865-May 1866 .....	.8
39. Rosters, June 1866-June 1867 .....	.7
40. Rosters, July-Dec. 1867 .....	.7
41. Rosters, Jan. 1868-Apr. 1869 .....	.6

*Indentures, marriages, and labor contracts:*

42. Register of indentures of colored orphans (42), Aug. 1865-May 1866; Register of marriages of freedmen, Vol. 1 (43), 1863-65, 1864, 1865; Register of marriages of freedmen, Vol. 2 (44), 1864-65;	
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Register of marriages of freedmen, Vol. 3 (45), 1865; Register of marriages of freedmen, Vol. 4 (46), 1864-66 .....	\$6
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*Labor contracts of freedmen:*

43. Jan.-June 1865 .....	.8
44. July 1865 .....	.7
45. July-Aug. 1865 .....	.8
46. Aug. 1865 .....	.8
47. Aug.-Sept. 1865 .....	.8
48. Oct.-Dec. 1865 .....	.6
49. Jan. 1866 .....	.8
50. Feb. 1866-Nov. 1868 .....	.7

**Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. M869. 44 rolls. \$278\***

On the 44 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-70. A few of the records are dated as early as 1863. The records consist of 38 volumes and approximately 30 cubic feet of unbound records. The volumes include letters and endorsements sent, registers of letters received, and orders issued. The unbound records consist mainly of reports, letters received, and applications for restoration of property. The documents were primarily created or received by the Assistant Commissioner and his assistant adjutants. A few of the documents were created or received by Capt. Alexander P. Ketchum, one of Commissioner Oliver Otis Howard's staff officers, who was sent to South Carolina to mediate a dispute over restoration of abandoned land on the sea islands of South Carolina and Georgia.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who had directed the "Port Royal Experiment," was appointed Assistant Commissioner for South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Shortly after Saxton assumed his new duties, Howard appointed Assistant Commissioners for Georgia and Florida. Thus, by September 1865, Saxton was, for all practical purposes, Assistant Commissioner solely for South Carolina. Generally, the records pertaining to Georgia and Florida that were created during this early period are included among those of the Assistant Commissioner of South Carolina.

The organization of the Bureau in South Carolina was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C. Saxton's original staff included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Inspector General, a Superintendent of Education, an Assistant Quartermaster, a Chief Commissary of Subsistence, and an aide-de-camp.

Officers subordinate to Saxton were responsible for administering the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts of South Carolina. These subdistricts, as they

finally evolved in February 1867, were: Anderson, Beaufort, Columbia, Charleston, Lynn, Darlington, Ediston, Greenville, Georgetown, Hilton Head, South Carolina side of the Savannah River, Unionville, and Williamsburg. The subdistricts were administered by officers titled subassistant commissioners. Officers or civilians serving under subassistant commissioners were called agents.

During the period of the Bureau's existence in South Carolina, there were three Assistant Commissioners operating from three different cities. Gen. Rufus Saxton established his headquarters at Beaufort, but in September 1865 he moved his headquarters to Charleston. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Robert K. Scott succeeded Saxton in January 1866 and carried out the duties of Assistant Commissioner until July 1868, when he resigned to become Governor of South Carolina. Just before Scott resigned, the Headquarters was moved to Columbia. Assuming the position of Assistant Commissioner in August 1868, Bvt. Col. John R. Edie served until May 1869. Bvt. Maj. Horace Neide, Superintendent of Education, acted as Assistant commissioner until May 31, 1869, when the office was abolished in South Carolina.

Neide and his successor, Bvt. Maj. Edward L. Deane, served as Superintendent of Education until June 1870, when that office was discontinued. Many of the series of records begun by Assistant Commissioners were continued by Superintendents of Education; thus, some records created by Superintendents of Education will be found with those of Assistant Commissioners. The Bureau functioned in South Carolina until June 1872, but its activity after June 1870 was mainly in the area of claims. These claims records are among the Provisions and Claims Divisions records and have not been reproduced on this microfilm publication. They are part of the records of the South Carolina Freedmen's Bureau.

When the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished, its records were sent to the Office of the Adjutant General. Clerks in the Adjutant General's Office numbered the volumes or book records and prepared "indexes" or lists of these books. In this microfilm publication the number assigned to the volume by the clerks in the Adjutant General's Office appears in parentheses. This number is useful only as a more precise method of identifying the volume.

#### Series Listings and Remarks

**LETTERS SENT.** The six volumes of letters sent, June 13, 1865-January 22, 1870, consist of fair copies of letters, telegrams, and reports sent mainly by the Assistant Commissioner and assistant adjutants. The communications in these volumes are generally arranged in chronological order. A name index is at the beginning of each volume except the sixth (14). The National Archives and Records Service has prepared a name index

for volume 6 (14), and it is filmed before the volume on roll 2.

In the left margin of the pages of the volumes is the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the letter was sent. There are also notations in the form of fractions in the margins of volumes 1 (9) and 3 (11). The numerator is the number of the page in that volume on which there is a preceding letter to the same person, and the denominator is the number of the page on which there is a subsequent letter to the same officer. The subject of the letter is also found in the margin.

Filmed after the volumes are six unbound copies of letters sent, October 30, 1865-May 5, 1868, addressed to Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C., and not duplicated in the volumes of letters sent. Also reproduced here is an enclosure to a letter sent that is in volume 2 (10), November 20, 1865, document number 317.

**ENDORSEMENTS SENT.** According to the record-keeping practice of the day, the Assistant Commissioner kept a series of records known as endorsements sent or endorsement books. Frequently, instead of writing a letter, the Assistant Commissioner or assistant adjutants wrote the reply or forwarding statement on the incoming letter and either returned the communication to the sender or forwarded it to another officer. These replies or forwarding statements were copied into endorsement books, with a summary of the contents of the incoming communication and with the previous endorsements that had been written on the communication.

The nine volumes of endorsements sent, June 15, 1865-June 24, 1870, are generally arranged in chronological order. In the left margin of the pages are the number of the endorsement (assigned in the order that it appears in the volume), the name of the person or title of the officer to whom the endorsement was sent, and the subject of the endorsement. The entry number of the letter received on which the endorsement was written also appears in the left margin (abbreviations used to denote registers of letters received are "IMB" and "IB"). Also found in the left margin of some of the pages are the words "continued to" and "continued from" with the number of a subsequent or preceding endorsement. This serves the same purpose as the fractions did for letters sent.

There are name indexes for the first four volumes and the last.

**REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.** Another recordkeeping practice of the day was that of entering incoming communications into registers of letters received. The entries in the registers include such information as the name or office of the correspondent, the place from which the letter was written, an abstract of the letter, and the register entry number assigned to the



communication. Document numbers for related letters and endorsements sent are also given. Abbreviations used in the registers to denote such correspondence are "LB," "EB," or "EMB."

Entries in the eight registers of letters received, June 1865-October 1870, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally by date of receipt of the communication. The letters were assigned entry numbers in the order that they were entered in the volume, with a separate numerical sequence for each alphabetical division.

Because the number of pages allotted to each alphabetical division in the registers often proved insufficient, it became necessary to continue the entries elsewhere in the volume. The National Archives has filmed the registers in correct order; therefore some of the pages are not in the original numerical sequence. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed. There are name indexes for volumes 1 (1) and 3 (3).

Cross-reference symbols enclosed in brackets have been entered by the National Archives and Records Service. The notation "F/W" before a cross-reference indicates that the letter is filed with the cited letter. The notation "F/as" indicates that the letter is filed under the designated cross-reference file number. Not all letters entered in the registers are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives and Records Service has placed an asterisk (\*) in the registers by the entry number of each letter that is still in the series of registered letters received. Others were forwarded to Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C., or were sent to officers subordinate to the Assistant Commissioner. Some of the letters are filed in the series of applications for restoration of property. The National Archives and Records Service has stamped a double asterisk (\*\*) by the entry number in the register when a letter was found in that series. The applications are reproduced on rolls 25-31 of this microfilm publication.

Stamped explanations of the asterisks and symbols appear in the front of each register.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.** The letters and telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner are in two unbound series: one series of registered letters and one series of unregistered letters.

The letters entered in the register or letters received, May 1865-February 1870, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order. The file citation on a letter includes the abbreviation "IB," the letter of the alphabet under which it will be found in the register, and the entry number assigned to it.

The unregistered letters received, May 1865-May 1869, are arranged by year, thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of correspondent, and

thereunder in chronological order. Letters received from Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C., are filed under the letter "H" for O. O. Howard. The letters were not given file citations by the Assistant Commissioner's office, but some letters were given file citations by other offices, such as Headquarters, Military District of South Carolina.

**RECORDS RELATING TO RESTORATION OF PROPERTY.** At the time of the Bureau's establishment in South Carolina, it was given many lands to administer. These lands had come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government in various ways. In 1862 a direct land tax was levied in South Carolina, and if not paid the land was confiscated. Also in 1862 Congress enacted a measure to seize the land of military and civil officers of the Confederate government. In 1863 seizure was allowed of property belonging to an owner who was voluntarily absent from his land to fight or work for the Confederacy. Then in 1865 Gen. W. T. Sherman, while moving his army through the State, issued Special Field Order 15, which added a sizable amount of land to that already seized. It was the understanding of many people that the land expropriated by Sherman was to be given to the freedmen.

In May 1865 President Andrew Johnson, in his Amnesty Proclamation, announced that pardoned Confederates would have their land returned if it had not been sold by court decree. The proclamation did not affect the lands seized by Sherman. Commissioner Howard established a board, chaired by Capt. A. P. Ketchum of his staff, to decide the fate of these lands. Eventually, most of these lands also were restored to their owners.

The Bureau was given the responsibility of restoring the lands after the necessary paperwork had been completed. An individual who wanted his land restored had to submit to the Bureau an application for restoration of property. Along with the application, the individual was required to submit proof of having taken the loyalty oath, proof of pardon, and proof of ownership of the land.

Many records relating to the restoration of property are among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. These consist of a one-volume register of applications for restoration of property, one unbound series of registered applications for restoration of property, one unbound series of unregistered applications for restoration of property, four volumes and one unbound series of records created by A. P. Ketchum, and one unbound series of abandoned land reports.

Ketchum's records pertain mainly to South Carolina and, because some of the applications received by him for restoration of property were interfiled with those of the Assistant Commissioner, Ketchum's records have been kept with those of South Carolina.



The entries in the register of applications for restoration of property, August 1865-May 1866, are arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of surname or office of correspondent and thereunder generally in chronological order by date of receipt of the application.

In the register for each letter entered, there is an entry number, the name of the petitioner, the name or description of the property, and the date the land was restored, if applicable. A cross-reference entry number is given for the application if it is also entered in the Assistant Commissioner's registers of letters received.

Not all the applications entered in the register are among the records. Some were forwarded to Bureau headquarters or other offices or officers. The National Archives has placed an asterisk (\*) in the register by the entry number of each application still among the records of the Assistant Commissioner. The National Archives has also placed cross-reference symbols in the register in the same manner as in the registers of letters received.

The unbound series of registered applications for restoration of property, May 1865-May 1866, consist of several different types of documents. These include the application itself, and often filed with it are the loyalty oath of the owner, the pardon of the owner, the proof of ownership, and the restoration order.

The applications are arranged according to their entry in the register of applications for restoration of property. The file citation on the application gives the letter of the alphabet and entry number under which the application was entered in the register.

The unregistered applications for restoration of property, July 1865-October 1868, are applications that were received too late to be entered in the register, or they were applications administered by Ketchum. The applications are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the owner or organization. While these applications have no file citations that pertain to the register of applications for restoration of property received, some do have file citations that apply to the registers of letters received or to Ketchum's register of applications for restoration of property.

The records created or received by Ketchum consist of an endorsement book, November 1865-March 1866; a register of letters received, November 1865-March 1866; a register of applications for restoration of property, November 1865-February 1866; a register of lands and occupants, May 1865-December 1868; a register of restoration orders, December 1865-February 1866; and an unbound series of restoration orders, December 1865-February 1866. The endorsements sent and the register of letters received are arranged in the same way as their counterparts in the records of the Assistant Commissioner.

The entries in the register of applications for restoration of property are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname or institution of correspondent and

thereunder in chronological order. The entry numbers were assigned chronologically without regard to alphabetical divisions.

The register of lands and occupants is arranged first by geographic area, such as island or city, and thereunder alphabetically by surname of owner of a parcel of land. Some of the more important listings are: the amount of land being used, the number of freedmen working on the land, and the date that the land was restored. After Ketchum was recalled in February 1866, entries in this register continued to be recorded in the office of the Assistant Commissioner.

The register of restoration orders is arranged chronologically by the date of restoration, and it corresponds to the unbound series of restoration orders that is arranged numerically, 1-123. Often filed with the restoration orders are the applications for restoration of property, correspondence, loyalty oaths, and other pertinent documents. A name index has been completed by the National Archives that indexes both series of applications for restoration of property and the restoration orders. To use the index, the name of the petitioner, whether owner, lawyer, administrator, or institution, must be known. This index has been filmed before each of the series.

The abandoned land reports, August 1865-December 1868, are arranged in chronological order. They contain listings of the former owners of the land, how the land was acquired by the Bureau, and a description of the land.

**REPORTS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are three series of reports: reports of murders and outrages, reports of conditions and operations, and miscellaneous reports.

Reports received from subordinate officers relating to murders and outrages, October 1865-November 1868, are arranged chronologically. The reports usually list the names of the persons murdered or assaulted and of those accused of the crime, the race of the people involved, and the action taken on the case. Some of the officers submitted two reports for 1 month—one listed offenses committed by whites against blacks, and the other listed offenses of blacks against whites.

The reports of conditions and operations, July 1865-December 1868, are arranged chronologically. Reports of prevailing conditions, such as race relations and the status of crops, and of the operations of the Bureau, were submitted monthly to the Assistant Commissioner. They were written by the Assistant Commissioner's staff and by subordinate officers and civilians in South Carolina.

The miscellaneous reports, 1865-67, are arranged by type of report and thereunder chronologically. They include one report of indigent people in Greenville

District, January 1867; a report of black orphans in South River District, April 1867; a report of a visit to Buzby Plantation, John's Island, January 1866; three reports of arrests in Anderson District, April, May, and July 1867; a report of a tour of inspection in South Carolina by Insp. Gen. C. H. Howard, November 1865; and a report of stationery used, April 1867.

**ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are a volume of general orders and circulars issued, four volumes of special orders issued, a volume of special orders received from Headquarters, 2d Military District, a volume of orders received pertaining to Bureau personnel in South Carolina, and unbound orders and circulars issued and received.

The volume of general orders and circulars issued, January 1866-May 1869, is generally arranged in chronological order. There is no index to this volume.

The four volumes of special orders issued, June 1865-July 1870, are generally arranged chronologically. There are indexes to the first three volumes.

The volume of special orders received from Headquarters, 2d Military District, April 1867-July 1868, is arranged chronologically. There is no index to this volume.

The volume of orders received pertaining to Bureau personnel in South Carolina, July 1865-February 1869, is arranged by name of officer to whom the order or orders pertain and thereunder generally chronologically. The names are not in alphabetical order, but there is a name index. These orders were issued by Bureau headquarters and Headquarters of the Army.

The unbound orders and circulars issued and received, 1865-67, are arranged by type of order or circular, thereunder by whether received or issued, and thereunder chronologically. Included in these records is a copy of General Sherman's Special Field Order 15.

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF RATIONS.** A specific function of the Bureau was to issue rations to the destitute of the State as well as to soldiers. Records pertaining to the issuance of rations consist of the following series: a ration book, lists of destitutes, ration returns, estimates of rations required, ration reports, a receipt for rations, applications for relief, bonds of planters for supplies, proceedings of the Commission on Liens, and a register of orders given planters for provisions for black employees.

The ration book, May 1863-July 1866, is generally arranged in chronological order. It was begun when Saxton was in command of the "Port Royal Experiment," but entries were later made by Bureau officials. It contains lists of rations for teachers, superintendents, destitutes, enlisted men, and civilians.

The lists of destitutes, 1866-67, are arranged in chronological order. Each list, sent in by a subordinate officer or civilian, is arranged alphabetically by names of the destitutes.

The ration returns, January 1866-November 1868, were received from subordinate officials. They are arranged in chronological order. Generally the returns list the amount of rations issued, the amount remaining, and the people to whom the rations were issued.

The estimates of rations required, July 1865-August 1866, are arranged in chronological order. These estimates were submitted by subordinate officers.

The ration reports, August 1865-December 1868, are arranged in chronological order. These monthly reports submitted by the Assistant Commissioner to Bureau headquarters list the subdistricts of the State and the amount of rations issued in each.

The one receipt for rations, June 1867, is for the district of Edisto. Each destitute person is listed, and the amount of rations issued to each is given.

The three applications for relief, January-December 1868, were submitted to the Assistant Commissioner by planters, and explain the need for rations and the number of workers requiring relief.

The bonds of planters for supplies, July 1867-February 1869, are arranged in chronological order. The amount of money or crops borrowed and other important data are given.

Before the growing season of 1868, many people borrowed money or crops from the Assistant Commissioner, and in return they signed a lien on their future crops. During the summer and fall, many people lost their crops and were, therefore, unable to repay their loan. As a result, a Commission on Liens was established to decide which liens would be extended and which would be called in immediately. The Commission, which met from December 16, 1868-January 16, 1869, was composed of the Assistant Commissioner, Col. James P. Low, and ex-Governor William Aiken. The proceedings of the Commission on Liens, October 19, 1868-January 16, 1869, which also include some letters sent by Commissioner O. O. Howard, are generally arranged in chronological order. The name of each person considered and the decision reached are listed. There is an index to this volume.

The register of orders given planters for provisions for black employees, April 1-July 14, 1865, is arranged chronologically. This register was begun by Saxton before he was appointed Assistant Commissioner. It contains the name of the planters, the plantation, the number of field hands, and the types and amounts of rations issued.

**RECORDS RELATING TO CONTRACTS.** There are two unbound series of records relating to contracts: contracts received, February 1866-January 1868, and



contract reports, January 1867-September 1868. Both series were received from subordinate officials and are arranged chronologically. The contracts state the conditions under which an employee or employees worked or rented land and the compensation, in money or crops, that would be paid or received. Each contract report gives the name of the employer, the number of employees, and the terms of the contract.

**RECORDS RELATING TO LEGAL ACTIONS.** There are a few small series of records relating to legal actions: investigations of charges, January 1866-July 1867; 10 affidavits, September 1865-June 1868; and four powers of attorney, September-October 1865. In each series the records are arranged in alphabetical order.

**QUARTERMASTER RECORDS.** Among the records of the Assistant Commissioner are returns of quartermaster stores received and issued, December 1865-April 1867, and requisitions for quartermaster supplies, August 1868. Staff and subordinate officers usually submitted copies of returns and requisitions to the Assistant Commissioner for approval. These records are arranged chronologically and generally list the stores received, issued, or requisitioned, and the amounts.

**PERSONNEL RECORDS.** The personnel records consist mainly of the unbound personnel rosters, August 1865-July 1868. Arranged chronologically in one body of records, the rosters are of agents and clerks, of officers, and of officers and civilians. Usually prepared monthly, the rosters list the name of the official and such pertinent information as his duty station and Bureau title.

**RECORDS RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.** The records relating to transportation consist of a list of requests for transportation, October 1, 1865-December 31, 1866; a register of signed transportation orders given to officers, March 6, 1866-February 3, 1867; a register of orders authorizing transportation, February 9-September 1866; an unbound series of transportation requests received, April 20-December 21, 1866; an unbound series of transportation orders issued, December 19, 1865-December 31, 1866; a series of monthly transportation reports, October 1866-November 1868; and a transportation receipt, November 16, 1865. All of these records are arranged by type of records and thereunder generally in chronological order. They usually give the name or names of the people requiring transportation and their proposed destination.

**OTHER RECORDS.** Filmed directly after the records relating to transportation are a few unbound miscellaneous records, 1865-67. They are arranged by type of record and consist mainly of documents relating to

property titles, marriage of freedmen, and receipts or bills of lading for such items as machinery and tools, furniture, and newspaper advertisements.

*Letters Sent:*

1. Vol. 1 (9), June 13-Nov. 1, 1865;  
Vol. 2 (10), Nov. 1-Dec. 30, 1865;  
Vol. 3 (11), Jan. 1-Dec. 29, 1866;  
Vol. 4 (12), Jan. 1-Dec. 30, 1867 .....\$7
2. Vol. 5 (13), Jan. 2-Dec. 31, 1868;  
Vol. 6 (14), Jan. 4, 1869-Jan. 22, 1870;  
Unbound copies of letters sent,  
Oct. 30, 1865-May 5, 1868 .....6

*Endorsements sent:*

3. Vol. 1 (17), June 15-Oct. 4, 1865;  
Vol. 2 (18), Oct. 4-Oct. 31, 1865;  
Vol. 3 (20), Nov. 1-Dec. 30, 1865;  
Vol. 4 (19), Jan. 2-Dec. 31, 1866;  
Vol. 5 (21), Jan. 2-July 30, 1867 .....7
4. Vol. 6 (22), Aug. 1-Dec. 30, 1867;  
Vol. 7 (23), Jan. 2-June 27, 1868;  
Vol. 8 (24), July 1, 1868-Jan. 20, 1869;  
Vol. 9 (25), Jan. 22, 1869-June 24, 1870 .....7

*Registers of letters received:*

5. Vol. 1 (1), June-Oct. 1865;  
Vol. 2 (2), Oct.-Dec. 1865;  
Vol. 3 (3), Jan.-Dec. 1866;  
Vol. 4 (4), Jan.-Aug. 1867;  
Vol. 5 (5), Aug.-Dec. 1867 .....7
6. Vol. 6 (6), Jan.-June 1868;  
Vol. 7 (7), July 1868-Jan. 1869;  
Vol. 8 (8), Jan. 1869-Oct. 1870 .....6

*Registered letters received:*

(Entered in registers 1 and 2):

7. A-O, May-Dec. 1865 .....6
8. P-Y, May-Dec. 1865 .....6

(Entered in register 3):

9. A-G, Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866 .....6
10. H-O, Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866 .....6
11. P-Z, Oct. 1865-Dec. 1866 .....6

(Entered in registers 4 and 5):

12. A-E, Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867 .....7
13. F-J, Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867 .....7
14. K-R, Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867 .....6
15. S-Y, Nov. 1866-Dec. 1867 .....6

(Entered in registers 6 and 7):

16. A-G, Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869 .....7
17. H-R, Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869 .....7
18. S-Y, Oct. 1867-Jan. 1869 .....6

(Entered in register 8):

19. A-W, Jan. 1869-Feb. 1870 .....7



*Unregistered letters received:*

20. A-W, May-Dec. 1865; A-E, 1866 .....	\$7
21. F-W, 1866 .....	.6
22. A-J, 1867 .....	.7
23. L-W, 1867 .....	.6
24. A-W, 1868-May 1869 .....	.7

*Records relating to restoration of property:*

25. Register of applications for Aug. 1865-May 1866; Restoration of property (38);	
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*Registered applications for restoration of property:*

A-B, May 1865-May 1866 .....	.6
26. C-F, May 1865-May 1866 .....	.6
27. G-K, May 1865-May 1866 .....	.6
28. L-R, May 1865-May 1866 .....	.6
29. S-Z, May 1865-May 1866 .....	.6

*Unregistered applications for restoration of property:*

30. A-K, July 1865-Oct. 1868 .....	.6
31. L-Z, July 1865-Oct. 1868 .....	.6

*Capt. A. P. Ketchum's records:*

32. Endorsements sent (40), Nov. 1865-Mar. 1866; Register of letters received (39), Nov. 1865-Mar. 1866; Register of applications for restoration of property (41), Nov. 1865-Feb. 1866; Register of lands and occupants (42), May 1865-Dec. 1868; Register of restoration orders (42), Dec. 1868-Feb. 1868; Restoration orders 1-123, Dec. 1865-Feb. 1866 .....	.7
33. Abandoned land reports, Aug. 1865-Dec. 1868 .....	.7

*Reports:*

34. Reports of murders and outrages, Oct. 1865-Nov. 1868; Reports of conditions and operations, July 1865-Dec. 1866 (Part), Jan. 1867-May 1868 (Part), June-Dec. 1868 (Part); Miscellaneous reports, 1865-67;	
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*Orders and circulars:*

General orders and circulars issued (26), Jan. 1866-May 1869; Special orders issued, Vol. 1 (27), June 1865-Jan. 1866 .....	.7
35. Reports of Conditions and Operations, Jan. 1867-May 1868 .....	.6

36. Reports of Conditions and Operations, June-Dec. 1868 .....	.5
Vol. 4 (30), Jan. 1869-July 1870; Special orders received from headquarters, 2d military district (32), Apr. 1867- July 1868; Orders received pertaining to Bureau personnel in South Carolina (31), July 1865-Feb. 1869; Orders and circulars issued and received, 1865-67;	

*Records relating to the issuance of rations:*

Ration book (36), May 1863-July 1866 .....	.6
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38. List of destitutes, 1866-67; Ration returns, Jan. 1866-Nov. 1868; Estimates of rations required, July 1865-Aug. 1866; Ration reports: Aug. 1865-Mar. 1866 (Part) .....	.6
39. Apr.-Dec. 1866 (Part) .....	.6
40. Jan.-Aug. 1867 (Part) .....	.6
41. Sept. 1867-Dec. 1868 (Part) .....	.6
42. Applications for relief, Jan.-Dec. 1868; Bonds of planters for supplies, July 1867-Feb. 1869; Proceedings of the Commission on Liens (34), Oct. 19, 1868-Jan. 16, 1869; Register of orders given planters for provisions for black employees (35), Apr. 1-July 14, 1865;	

*Records relating to contracts:*

Contracts received, Feb. 1866-Jan. 1868; Contract reports, Jan. 1867-Sept. 1868;	
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*Records relating to legal actions:*

Investigations of charges, Jan. 1866-July 1867; Affidavits, Sept. 1865-June 1868; Powers of attorney, Sept.-Oct. 1865;	
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*Quartermaster records:*

Returns of quartermaster, Dec. 1865-Apr. 1867; Stores received and issued; Requisitions for quartermaster stores, Aug. 1868 .....	.6
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*Personnel records:*

43. Personnel rosters, Aug. 1865-Dec. 1867 (Part) .....	.6
44. Jan.-July 1868 (Part)	

*Records relating to transportation:*

List of requests for transportation (35), Oct. 1, 1865-Dec. 31, 1866; Register of signed transportation orders given to officers (35), Mar. 6, 1866-Feb. 3, 1867; Register of orders authorizing transportation (35), Feb. 9-Sept. 4, 1866; Transportation requests received, Apr. 20-Dec. 21, 1866; Transportation orders issued, Dec. 19, 1865- Dec. 31, 1866; Monthly transportation reports, Oct. 1866-Nov. 1868; Other records, 1865-67 .....	.6
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**Selected Records of the Tennessee Field Office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. T142. 73 rolls. \$518**

This microfilm publication reproduces selected records of the Assistant Commissioner, his subordinates, and local field offices for the State of Tennessee, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

The organization of the Bureau in Tennessee was similar to that of the Bureau headquarters at Washington, D.C. The staff of the Assistant Commissioner included an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Inspector General, a Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, a Superintendent of Education, and a Surgeon in Chief. Subordinate officers carried out the policies of the Bureau in the subdistricts into which the State was divided.

The records include letters and telegrams sent by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-69; letters sent by the Superintendent of Education, 1866-70; letters sent by the Chief Medical Officer, 1865-69; letters sent by the Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, 1867-68; letters sent by the general claims agent, 1867-72; district office records; letters received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-69; reports to the Assistant Commissioner relating to the restoration of property; educational records; letters received by the office of the general claims agent, 1867-72; leases for abandoned property, 1865-66; and labor contracts, 1865-67.

1. List of book records and letters sent by the Assistant Commissioner; vols. 8, 12, synopses, Feb. 23, 1865-Dec. 29, 1866; vol. 6, letters, July 1-Sept. 9, 1865 .....\$7
2. Vols. 7, 9, 10, letters sent by the Assistant Commissioner, Oct. 2, 1865-Mar. 17, 1866 .....7
3. Vols. 11, 13, 14, letters sent by the Assistant Commissioner, Mar. 17, 1866-Dec. 31, 1868 .....7
4. Vols. 15-18, letters and telegrams sent by the Assistant Commissioner, July 3, 1865-Apr. 30, 1869 .....7
5. Vol. 36, letters sent by the Superintendent of Education, Feb. 26, 1866-Aug. 26, 1868 .....6
6. Vols. 37-39, letters sent by the Superintendent of Education, Aug. 26, 1868-July 23, 1870 .....8
7. Vol. 39 1/2, letters sent by the Chief Medical Officer, Aug. 28, 1865-Jan. 25, 1869 .....5
8. Vol. 42, letters sent by the Chief Quartermaster and Disbursing Officer, Oct. 18, 1867-July 30, 1868; vol. 51, letters sent by the general claims agent, June 5, 1867-Feb. 28, 1868 .....6
9. Vols. 52-54, letters sent by the general claims agent, Feb. 29, 1868-Jan. 31, 1871 .....7
10. Vols. 55-56, letters sent by the general claims agent, June 5, 1867-Jan. 3, 1868 .....6
11. Vols. 57-58, letters sent by the general claims agent, Jan. 4-Oct. 31, 1868 .....7
12. Vols. 59-60, letters sent by the general claims agent, Nov. 2, 1868-Dec. 15, 1869 .....7
13. Vols. 61-62, letters sent by the general claims agent, Dec. 16, 1869-Jan. 31, 1871 .....7
14. Vols. 63-65, letters sent by the general claims agent, Feb. 1, 1871-Apr. 2, 1872 .....7

15. Vols. 75, 79, letters sent by the district offices of Brownsville, Columbia, Chattanooga; and vols. 89-91, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Cleveland, Mar. 7, 1866-Mar. 25, 1871 .....6
16. Vols. 106-111, letters sent by the district offices of Gallatin, Jackson, Kingston; and vols. 114, 119-120, Knoxville, July 20, 1866-June 14, 1871 .....6
17. Vols. 133-136, letters sent by the Memphis district offices of the superintendent, the rental agent, and the subassistant commissioner, June 30, 1865-Mar. 21, 1868 .....7
18. Vols. 137-139, letters sent by the Memphis district offices of the subassistant commissioner and the disbursing officer of claims, Mar. 23, 1868-Dec. 3, 1869 ...8
19. Vols. 140-141, letters sent by the Memphis district office of the disbursing officer of claims, Dec. 4, 1869-July 28, 1870 .....7
20. Vols. 142-143, letters sent by the Memphis district office of the disbursing officer of claims, July 28, 1870-June 7, 1871 .....7
21. Vols. 144-145, 159, 166, 174, letters sent by the Memphis district offices of the disbursing officer of claims, the Chief Medical Officer, the Provost Marshal for freedmen, and the acting subassistant commissioner or agent, Aug. 31, 1865-Apr. 1, 1872 .....6
22. Vols. 186, 188, 195, 199, 202, 205, 207, 211, letters sent by the district offices of Murfreesboro, Nashville, Paris, Purdy, Bolivar, Pulaski, Springfield, and Trenton, Feb. 19, 1867-June 14, 1869 .....6
23. Vols. 23-26, 26A, 94, 167, orders and circulars issued by the Bureau at Washington, the field office, and the Chattanooga and Memphis district offices, June 26, 1865-Mar. 2, 1869 .....7
24. Vols. 169-172, complaint books of the freedmen's court in the Memphis district, July 24, 1865-Nov. 20, 1866 .....5
25. Letters received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865, registered series (A-E) .....7
26. 1865, registered series (F-H) .....7
27. 1865, registered series (P-W) .....7
28. 1865, unregistered series (A-Y); 1866, registered series (A-C) .....7
29. 1866, registered series (D-G) .....6
30. 1866, registered series (H-L) .....7
31. 1866, registered series (M-R) .....7
32. 1866, registered series (S-V) .....7
33. 1866, registered series (W-Z) .....6
34. Telegrams received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1866 and 1867, registered series (A-F) .....7
35. Letters received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1867, registered series (G-P) .....7
36. 1867, registered series (Q-W), unregistered series (P-W); 1868, registered series (A-F) .....6
37. 1868, registered series (G-W), unregistered series (A-Y); 1869, registered series (Jan.-Apr.), unregistered series (A-Y) .....7
38. Reports from officers and agents, and letters relating to appointments, received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-68; inspection reports received from agents, 1865-68; personal reports received from officers and agents, 1866-68 .....8
39. Reports and affidavits relating to outrages and riots; oaths of office; and letters relating to appointments received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1866-68; reports relating to outrages and riots, 1866-68; affidavits relating to outrages, 1866-68; oaths of office, 1867; letters of appointment, 1867; letters revoking appointments, 1867 .....7



40. Reports received from subassistant commissioners by the Assistant Commissioner, Aug. 1865-Mar. 1867 . . . . \$8
41. Reports received from subassistant commissioners by the Assistant Commissioner, Apr. 1867-Dec. 1869 . . . . 8
42. Lists of and letters relating to seized lands and properties; orders issued by the Army and the Bureau that relate to Tennessee; reports relating to refugees and to freedmen's homes and hospitals received by the Assistant Commissioner, 1864-69; lists of seized lands and properties, 1864-67; letters relating to seized lands and properties, 1866-67; orders relating to Tennessee, issued by the Army and by the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-69; reports relating to refugees and to freedmen's homes and hospitals, 1865-68 . . . . . 7
43. Records in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner relating to the restoration of property, 1865-68 (A-C) . . 7
44. Records in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner relating to the restoration of property, 1865-68 (D-K) . . 8
45. Records in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner relating to the restoration of property, 1865-68 (L-P) . . 7
46. Records in the Office of the Assistant Commissioner relating to the restoration of property, 1865-68 (R-Y) . . 7
47. Letters received by the Superintendent of Education; Sept. 1866-Aug. 1867 . . . . . 7
48. Sept. 1867-Oct. 1868 . . . . . 8
49. Nov. 1868-Sept. 1869 . . . . . 7
50. Oct. 1869-July 1870 . . . . . 7
51. Reports received from agents and district superintendents by the Office of the Superintendent of Education, 1866-70; miscellaneous receipts, reports, and circulars, 1866-70; monthly reports from agents, May 1867-June 1870; monthly reports from district superintendents, Jan. 1866-June 1870 . . . . . 9
52. Monthly reports received from teachers by the Office of the Superintendent of Education, Oct. 1866-May 1868 . . . . . 8
53. Monthly reports received from teachers by the Office of the Superintendent of Education, June 1868-May 1869 . . . . . 8
54. Reports received from teachers and the State Superintendent of Schools by the Office of the Superintendent of Education, 1866-70; monthly reports from teachers, June 1869-June 1870; monthly reports from the State Superintendent of Schools, Oct. 1866-June 1870 . . . . . 9
55. Letters received by the office of the general claims agent, regular series, May 1867-June 1869 . . . . . \$8
56. Letters received by the office of the general claims agent, regular series, July 1869-Jan. 1872 . . . . . 8
57. Letters received by the office of the general claims agent, unregistered series, June 1866-Mar. 1872 . . . . . 8
58. Letters received by the office of the superintendent of the Nashville subdistrict, Aug. 1866-Mar. 1867 . . . . . 7
59. Letters received by the office of the superintendent of the Nashville subdistrict, Apr. 1867-Nov. 1868 . . . . . 7
60. Miscellaneous orders, circulars, claims, and reports received by the office of the superintendent of the Nashville subdistrict, 1865-70; miscellaneous orders, 1866-70; miscellaneous circulars, 1866-69; claims, 1865-66; miscellaneous reports, 1866-68 . . . . . 8
61. Miscellaneous reports, oaths of allegiance, and property returns received by the office of the superintendent of the Nashville subdistrict, 1865-68; miscellaneous reports, 1866-68; oaths of allegiance, 1865; clothing ration and property returns, 1865-68 . . . . . 8
62. Leases for abandoned property received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-66: Anderson-Davidson counties . . . . . 7
63. Davidson-Rutherford counties . . . . . 7
64. Shelby-Wilson counties . . . . . 7
65. Indentures of apprentices received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-66 . . . . . 7
66. Labor contracts received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, 1865-67; Dyer-Hamilton counties . . . . 8
67. Labor contracts received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Hardman county, Jan. 1, 1865-Jan. 6, 1866 . . . . . 7
68. Labor contracts received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Hardman county, Jan. 8, 1866-Apr. 13, 1867 . . . . . 7
69. Labor contracts received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Hardman county, 1865-67; Haywood-Madison counties . . . . . 8
70. Robertson-Shelby counties . . . . . 7
71. Shelby county . . . . . 8
72. Shelby-Wilson counties and States other than Tennessee . . . . . 7
73. Registries of plantations received by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, 1865, Nos. 1201-2197, 4700-4936 . . . . . 7





# Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior

## (Record Group 48)

**Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization, 1854-1872. M160.10 rolls. \$56\***

This microfilm publication reproduces three bound volumes and some unbound records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior relating to the suppression of the slave trade and the colonization of recaptured and free blacks. By acts of 1807 and 1819, Congress prohibited the importation of slaves into the United States. The act of 1819 authorized the President to employ U.S. armed vessels to seize any ships or vessels of the United States engaged in the slave trade and to arrange for the return of captured Africans to Africa. Initially the Secretary of the Navy held primary responsibility for enforcing these laws.

On May 2, 1861, President Lincoln assigned to the Secretary of the Interior the responsibility for executing the laws that had been enacted to suppress the slave trade and to handle African colonization. Cooperating with Great Britain, during the 1860's America vigorously enforced the antislave trade laws. While the attempts to suppress the slave trade succeeded, attempts at colonization were less successful.

1. Letters sent, Sept. 8, 1858-Feb. 1, 1872, relating mainly to the capture of slave ships and vessels being outfitted for the slave trade; judicial proceedings against persons engaged in the slave trade; colonization attempts at Ile a Vache, Haiti; projected colonization schemes in the Danish West Indies, the British West Indies, and British Honduras; and the delivery of recaptured Africans to Liberia. Also copies of contracts concerning the colonization of liberated Africans on the Isthmus of Chiriqui in the Republic of New Granada and on Ile a Vache .....\$5
2. Register of letters received, Aug. 11, 1858-Feb. 3, 1872 .....5
3. (1) Communications from the President, Aug. 31, 1858-Jan. 28, 1864, consisting mainly of letters originally referred to the President by the Secretary of the Interior and returned with the President's approval or comments; and a copy of a letter dated May 2, 1861, from President Lincoln designating the Department as the agency responsible for executing the laws relating to the suppression of the slave trade  
(2) Communications from the Department of State, Nov. 6, 1860-Nov. 7, 1870, including letters referred by that Department to the Secretary of the Interior;

correspondence relating to the slave ships *Delicia* and *William L. Cogswell*; letters relating to colonization on the island of Fernando Po near Kingston, Jamaica, and at Quito, Ecuador; and information concerning the activities and termination of the Mixed Courts of Justice

(3) Communications from the War Department, May 31, 1860-May 22, 1871, relating to the capture of a French slave ship, the request from the Secretary of War for authorization to tear down the barracoons at Key West, Fla., the refusal of the War Department to permit J. B. Pinney and A. A. Constantine to visit Fort Monroe, Va., and the claim of Rev. James Mitchell for compensation as Commissioner of Emigration

(4) Communications from the Navy Department, Sept. 6, 1858-Sept. 3, 1862, including inspection reports on vessels offered for the transportation of liberated blacks; reports of Rev. John Seys, U.S. Agent for liberated Africans in Liberia (forwarded by the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior); and information relating to the capture of the slave brig *Bonito*

(5) Communications from the Treasury Department, July 18, 1860-Feb. 3, 1872, relating mainly to salary drafts of personnel of the Mixed Courts of Justice and of special agents outside the United States, accounts of U.S. Marshals, and payment of prize money. Included are a copy of a contract between the United States and the American Colonization Society, and a statement of the expenses and disbursements of the U.S. marshal at New York, Dec. 18, 1862-Sept. 18, 1864

(6) Communications from the Attorney General, Apr. 13, 1859-June 2, 1865, relating to the compensation of J. W. Wayne as assistant counsel for the United States in the prosecution of the brig *Echo*, the compensation of George C. Whiting, and the legality of Rev. James Mitchell's claim

(7) Congressional resolutions and correspondence, 1861-66, relating to the suppression of the slave trade and the compensation of judges of the Mixed Courts of Justice, to contracts with the American Colonization Society and to Rev. John Seys, to the slave bark *Augusta*, to vessels and persons engaged in the slave trade in the Southern District of New York, 1852-62, and to colonization accomplishments. ....\$6

4. (1) Abstracts of laws of 34 States relating to blacks  
(2) Miscellaneous letters received relating to the suppression of the slave trade, Dec. 30, 1858-Feb. 3, 1871. They include letters from D. H. Hamilton, U.S. marshal at Charleston, S.C., letters relating to claims for compensation in the suppression of the slave trade; expense accounts of agents; reports from the customs collector's office at New Orleans and from special agents pertaining to their activities; requests for com-

- compensation for the use of the tug *Achilles* in the *Augusta* case; and a printed appeal on behalf of fugitives from slavery in America . . . . . \$5
- 5.(1) Communications from U.S. attorneys, 1860-69, pertaining to their activities in the prosecution of persons engaged in the slave trade
- (2) Communications from E. Delafield Smith, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Apr. 12, 1861-Sept. 26, 1867, relating to the cases of the slave ships *Augusta*, *Nightingale*, and *Erie*; papers relating to the claim for wages of the crew of the *William L. Cogswell*; letters from Robert Murray and other interested persons concerning payment for services in the use of the tug *Achilles*; and accounts of disbursements under the fund for the suppression of the slave trade
- (3) Copies of correspondence between J. C. Van Dyke, U.S. attorney at Philadelphia, and the State and Treasury Departments, and communications from Van Dyke to the Interior Departments, and communications from Van Dyke to the Interior Department, Aug. 10, 1854-Mar. 21, 1862, relating to various slave ships, his claims for expenses incurred in the suppression of the slave trade, and the testimony of witnesses in the trial of James G. Darnaud for piracy
- (4) Documents relating to the slave bark *Augusta*, 1861-62, consisting of:
- (a) General incoming correspondence, July 3, 1861-Mar. 8, 1862, including communications from Robert Murray, U.S. marshal at New York, and E. Delafield Smith, attorney at New York, relating to the case of the *Augusta*; communications from Judge William D. Shipman pertaining to the request of the Secretary of the Interior that he conduct an investigation into charges of collusion between Federal officers and parties engaged in the slave trade; and the decision of Secretary of the Interior exonerating the accused
- (b) One volume of testimony in the investigation ordered by the Secretary of the Interior at New York in Dec. 1861 on the charges of collusion
- (c) Exhibits identified as B-I, K, and L-Y, consisting primarily of correspondence, Oct.-Dec. 1861 . . . . . \$6
- 6.(1) Communications relating to U.S. marshals, Mar. 13, 1857-Mar. 9, 1869, including correspondence pertaining to the slave trade in the vicinity of Florida and the recovery of Africans in South Carolina; reports concerning numerous slave ships; the findings of the grand jury and the testimony of witnesses in the escape of Appleton Oaksmith from the Boston jail; correspondence and depositions from the U.S. marshal in New York and his aides in regard to alleged misconduct of certain officers in the escape of the *Storm King*; and letters concerning the rescue of the fugitive slave Shadrack at Boston
- (2) Communications relating to T. J. Moreno, U.S. marshal for the Southern District of Florida, May 4, 1860-Apr. 3, 1862, including reports on various slave ships; correspondence relating to drafts drawn by Moreno; reports concerning recaptured Africans transported to Liberia on ships of the American Colonization Society; a statistical report showing the number of births and deaths among the Africans at Key West, Fla., and the number transported to Liberia; and correspondence and testimonials pertaining to Moreno's loyalty to the Union
- (3) Communications from Robert Murray, U.S. marshal for the Southern District of New York, May 11, 1861-Apr. 1869, relating mainly to his claim and to that of Joseph Thompson, first deputy marshal, for compensation in recognition of extra services rendered and expenses incurred in suppression of the slave trade; letters relating to the investigation conducted by Judge Shipman in the *Augusta* case; reports relating to various slave ships, and the claim of Russell Stugis for compensation for the use of the *Achilles*; copy of a bill for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade; and letters from the Treasury Department pertaining to the settlement of Murray's accounts
- (4) Correspondence, Apr. 24, 1860-Nov. 7, 1861, pertaining to the claim of Lucien Peyton for services rendered in the case of the slave ship *Wanderer* . . . . . \$6
- 7.(1) Communications relating to Benjamin Pringle, judge of the Mixed Courts of Justice at Cape Town, South Africa, Mar. 15, 1863-Apr. 1, 1870, including correspondence pertaining to the organization and accounts of the court, the payment of salary drafts, and a leave of absence for Judge Pringle
- (2) Communications from Truman Smith, judge of the Mixed Courts of Justice at New York, May 4, 1863-Oct. 24, 1870, relating to court accommodations, accounts for rent, and salary drafts
- (3) Communications relating to Charles V. Dyer, judge of the Mixed Courts of Justice at Sierra Leone, British Africa, Jan. 5, 1861-Mar. 30, 1866, including correspondence pertaining to financial difficulties, and increase in the compensation of Dyer and of Timothy Hibbard, arbitrator of the court, and Dyer's salary drafts
- (4) Communications relating to George W. Palmer, judge of the Mixed Court at Sierra Leone, Apr. 20, 1867-Dec. 22, 1879, including correspondence pertaining to the accounts of the court and payment of salary drafts; and Judge Parlmer's letter of resignation
- (5) Communications relating to William L. Avery, U.S. arbitrator of the Mixed Court at Cape Town, Feb. 9, 1863-May 31, 1869, including correspondence pertaining to accounts and salary drafts, the assassination of President Lincoln, and Avery's departure from Cape Town
- (6) Communications relating to Timothy Hibbard, arbitrator of the Mixed Court at Sierra Leone, Feb. 10, 1863-Apr. 20, 1867, including correspondence pertaining to the interpretation of the treaty for suppression of the slave trade, the organization and accounts of the court, salary accounts, activities of the court, and the death of Hibbard . . . . . \$5
- 8.(1) Communications relating to Rev. James Mitchell, emigration agent of the Department of the Interior, Apr. 8, 1862-June 6, 1865, including correspondence promoting colonization in Haiti, a draft of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior to President Lincoln recommending the discontinuance of Mitchell's services, correspondence between Mitchell and the Secretary relating to the former's position and authority, letters concerning Mitchell's claim for compensation, and a copy of a report from Mitchell to President Lincoln concerning colonization
- (2) Miscellaneous letters pertaining to colonization, May 23, 1860-Oct. 10, 1868, including communications to the Secretary of State concerning offers to transport recaptured blacks to Liberia; requests for appointment as agents, reports from agents; a copy of a note from the Spanish Minister to the Secretary of State concerning colonization on the island of Fernando Po; communications relating to proposed



colonization on the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and in Mexico; and colonization accounts

(3) Communications relating to colonization in British Honduras, Mar. 7, 1861-May 20, 1863, including several of the James Grant papers, copies of original land grants in British Honduras, letters from John Hodge, an agent of the British Honduras Company, and pamphlets concerning the advantages of colonization in British Honduras

(4) Communications relating to S. C. Pomeroy, U.S. colonization agent, Sept. 12, 1862-Jan. 30, 1872, including a copy of his instructions, a contract between the United States and Ambrose Thompson pertaining to colonization on the Isthmus of Chiriqui, and correspondence regarding the settlement of accounts

(5) Records relating to negotiations with Denmark concerning colonization, Apr. 23, 1862-Oct. 3, 1865. Included are an agreement dated July 19, 1862, as to the receiving of recaptured blacks in St. Croix, Danish West Indies; printed and manuscript copies of the provisional act to regulate the relations between the proprietors of landed estates and the rural population of free laborers of the Danish West Indies; and a communication from the Danish Legation to the State Department regarding the agreement of 1861

(6) Miscellaneous contracts and agreements pertaining to colonization, 1860-65, including proposals for furnishing ships to transport blacks from Key West, Fla., copies of contracts with the American Colonization Society for transporting blacks from Key West to Liberia and for the support of liberated Africans, a copy of an agreement between the Republic of Liberia and the American Colonization Society regarding recaptured Africans landed in Liberia by the society under its contract with the United States, several drafts of contracts, the charter of the ship *Ocean Ranger*, a printed statement relating to the colonization of free blacks at Ile a Vache, and a draft of a Haitian Proclamation relating to colonization

(7) Requisitions and letters, 1861-66, mainly letters from G. C. Whiting to the Secretary of the Interior or to the disbursing agent requesting requisitions for the U.S. marshals, and attorneys, or for Rev. James Mitchell.....\$6

9.(1) Documents pertaining to Bernard Kocks' proposal for colonization at Ile a Vache, Sept. 6, 1862-Mar. 21, 1863

(2) Correspondence dated Feb. 20, 1863-May 28, 1868, concerning the claim of Paul S. Forbes and Charles K. Tuckerman for the compensation specified

under their contract with the United States to colonize Ile a Vache, including the signed contract between the United States and Forbes and Tuckerman; testimonials regarding the ability of Forbes and Tuckerman to undertake the project; notice of the *Ocean Ranger* with 500 emigrants; and a printed statement of the circumstances attending the experiment of colonizing free blacks at Ile a Vache

(3) Correspondence and reports relating to D. C. Donnohue, special agent appointed to investigate the colonization project at Ile a Vache, Sept. 10, 1863-May 9, 1864, including communications from the State Department that transmitted dispatches from the consul general at Haiti on the condition of the emigrants at Ile a Vache; a report from Allston Wilson regarding his visit to Haiti; correspondence between the Secretary of the Interior and Donnohue concerning the latter's appointment as special agent; reports from Donnohue; and correspondence pertaining to the payment of drafts

(4) Communications, Feb. 9, 1863-Jan. 18, 1869, relating to the claim of James De Long, U.S. consul at Aux Cayes, Haiti, for money expended assisting the colonists at Ile a Vache .....\$6

10.(1) Communications from Rev. John Seys, U.S. agent for liberated Africans at Monrovia, 1860-65, consisting of accounts and receipts for expenditures; reports concerning the arrival of American Colonization Society vessels and the condition of liberated Africans; and a report to the Secretary of the Interior concerning the contract between the American Colonization Society and the Liberian Government and the number of recaptured Africans delivered to the society's agent  
(2) Accounts and financial correspondence of the American Colonization Society, Jan. 1861-May 1863, including communications from the Treasury Department to the Department of the Interior concerning accounts of the society

(3) Communications pertaining to Rev. William McLain, financial secretary of the American Colonization Society, May 23, 1860-Dec. 2, 1868, including proposals for transporting Africans to Liberia, letters from McLain relating to the sailing schedules of the society's ships, letters transmitting reports to the Department from agents; and correspondence concerning the claim of the American Colonization Society for the support of recaptured Africans.....6



**Naval Records Collection of the  
Office of Naval Records and Library  
(Record Group 45)**

**Correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy Relating to  
African Colonization, 1819-44. M205. 2 rolls. \$14\***

In this microfilm publication are reproduced six volumes of correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy relating to African colonization, January 5, 1819-May 29, 1844. Copies of a few documents of later date (August 18, 1856-September 8, 1858) are included.

The correspondence consists mainly of copies of letters sent by the Secretary of the Navy to agents of the United States stationed on the northwest coast of Africa for the purpose of receiving blacks freed by the capture of slave ships, and letters and reports received by the Secretary of the Navy from these agents. The volumes also contain correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy with the President, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, Federal judges, marshals and district attorneys, Navy agents, other Government officials, officials and members of the American Colonization Society, and private individuals and firms. Included among the correspondents are James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, John Marshall, William Wirt, and Francis Scott Key.

The letters concern such matters as the seizure of vessels engaged in the African slave trade; the condemnation of these vessels in U.S. district courts; the arrangements for the shipment of liberated Africans to reception centers on the northwest coast of Africa, including those at Sherbro Island, Cape Mesurado, Monrovia, and Thomastown; the establishment, maintenance, and supply of these centers; the part played by U.S. naval vessels in suppressing the slave trade and in facilitating African colonization; and the activities of the American Colonization Society and of State colonization societies.

By an act of March 2, 1807, Congress prohibited the importation of slaves into the United States after January 1, 1808, and provided penalties for those engaged in the slave trade. Thus was initiated a campaign by the Government to suppress the African slave trade that was to continue for more than 60 years. An act of March 3, 1819, enacted stringent penalties for the crime of importing slaves and appropriated \$100,000 to

enforce the law. It also authorized the President to employ any of the armed vessels of the United States to seize and bring into a U.S. port any ships or vessels of the United States engaged in the slave trade; to make regulations and arrangements for the safekeeping, support, and removal beyond the limits of the United States of blacks thus brought into the country; and "to appoint a proper person or persons, residing upon the coast of Africa, as agent or agents for receiving the negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels, seized in the prosecution of the slave trade, by commanders of the United States' armed vessels." Supervision of the agents appointed under this act was delegated to the Secretary of the Navy by President Monroe.

Related closely to the work of these agents was that of the American Colonization Society, founded in December 1816 to colonize in Africa free blacks from the United States. It sent out a small colony in 1820, which was temporarily established on Sherbro Island off the coast of Sierra Leone until the Colonization Society obtained land in the territory southeast of Sierra Leone now known as Liberia. Ultimately a number of colonies were established in Liberia both by the American Colonization Society and by State colonization societies.

Although the agents of the United States were instructed to keep their activities separate from those of the society, the agency of the United States and the Colonization Society maintained close relationships in Liberia, and the same man was occasionally the agent both for the United States and for the society.

Before 1843 single vessels of the Navy were sometimes employed on the coast of Africa to aid in the suppression of the slave trade and to assist the agents of the United States. Under the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842, however, the United States and Great Britain agreed that each nation would maintain a squadron of not less than 80 guns to operate off the African coast in order to suppress the slave trade. As a result of this agreement, the African Squadron was established. Commodore Matthew C. Perry was ap-



pointed its first commanding officer on March 10, 1843.

The U.S. agency appears to have been rather inactive in the period from 1840 to 1860. On May 2, 1861, President Lincoln transferred to the Secretary of the Interior the duty of supervising the agency and the responsibility for executing all laws enacted for the suppression of the slave trade. The dwindling functions of the agent were assigned to the U.S. commissioner and consul general to Liberia in 1864.

1. Letters sent, Jan. 17, 1820-May 29, 1844 (1 vol.), including copies of a few documents dated between Aug. 18, 1856, and Sept. 8, 1858; and letters received, Jan. 5, 1819-Dec. 31, 1825 (2 vols.) .....\$7
2. Letters received, Jan. 1, 1826-Mar. 10, 1841 (3 vols.) ..... 7

**Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanding Officers of Squadrons, African Squadron, 1843-1861. Rolls 101-112. M89. 12 rolls. \$70**

These letters contain reports on naval activities; on the economic, social, and political life of the countries adjacent to the cruising area of the African Squadron; on countries at which the squadron touched in sailing to and from their cruising area; and on the enforcement of American laws against slave trading. The communications are arranged in rough chronological order.

101. Apr. 10, 1843-Apr. 29, 1845 .....	\$7
102. Jan. 14, 1845-Aug. 8, 1846 .....	6
103. May 27, 1848-Oct. 11, 1847 .....	5
104. Nov. 22, 1848-Sept. 3, 1849 .....	5
105. Oct. 11, 1849-June 25, 1851 .....	6
106. Jan. 23, 1851-Mar. 30, 1853 .....	5
107. Jan. 4, 1853-Mar. 30, 1855 .....	6
108. Jan. 17, 1855-June 2, 1857 .....	6
109. June 9, 1857-Aug. 31, 1859 .....	6
110. May 28, 1859-Feb. 13, 1860 .....	6
111. Mar. 28-Sept. 30, 1860 .....	6
112. Oct. 1, 1860-Sept. 26, 1861 .....	6

**Letter Books of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, March 10, 1843-February 20, 1845. M206. 1 roll. \$6**

Under the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 the United States and Great Britain agreed that each nation would maintain in African waters a squadron to suppress the slave trade. Effective March 14, 1843, Commodore Matthew C. Perry was assigned to command the African Squadron. These letter books contain copies of communications sent by Commodore Perry during his command to the Secretary of the Navy, other officials of the Navy Department, naval officers, U.S. consular officials, and others. Included in the communications are reports and letters concerning the prevention of the slave trade and conditions in Liberian colonies of free blacks from the United States.

## Records of the Bureau of the Census

### (Record Group 29)

For detailed information see *Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890* (1971).

**First Census of the United States, 1790. M637. 12 rolls. \$77**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Second Census of the United States, 1800. M32. 52 rolls. \$295**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Third Census of the United States, 1810. M252. 71 rolls. \$411**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Fourth Census of the United States, 1820. M33. 142 rolls. \$756**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. M19. 201 rolls. \$1,323**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. M704. 580 rolls. \$3,447**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Lists free blacks by name of head of household; all other members of the household are tallied statistically, but unnamed. Slaves are listed statistically by owner

**Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. M432. 1009 rolls. \$6,988**

Arranged by State, thereunder divided into free schedules and slave schedules. Both are organized by county. Free schedules name all members of the household. Slave schedules list slaves by owner, giving sex and age, occasionally naming the slaves

**Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. M653. 1,438 rolls. \$10,088**

Arranged by State, thereunder divided into free schedules and slave schedules. Both are organized by county. Free schedules name all members of the household. Slave schedules list slaves by owner, giving sex and age, occasionally naming the slaves

**Ninth Census of the United States, 1870. M593. 1,748 rolls. \$12,681**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Gives names and ages of all members of the household

**Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. T9. 1,454 rolls. \$10,872**

Arranged by State, thereunder by county. Gives names and ages of all members of the household

**Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890. M407. 3 rolls. \$20**

Only a small fragment survived a fire in the Commerce Department building, January 1921





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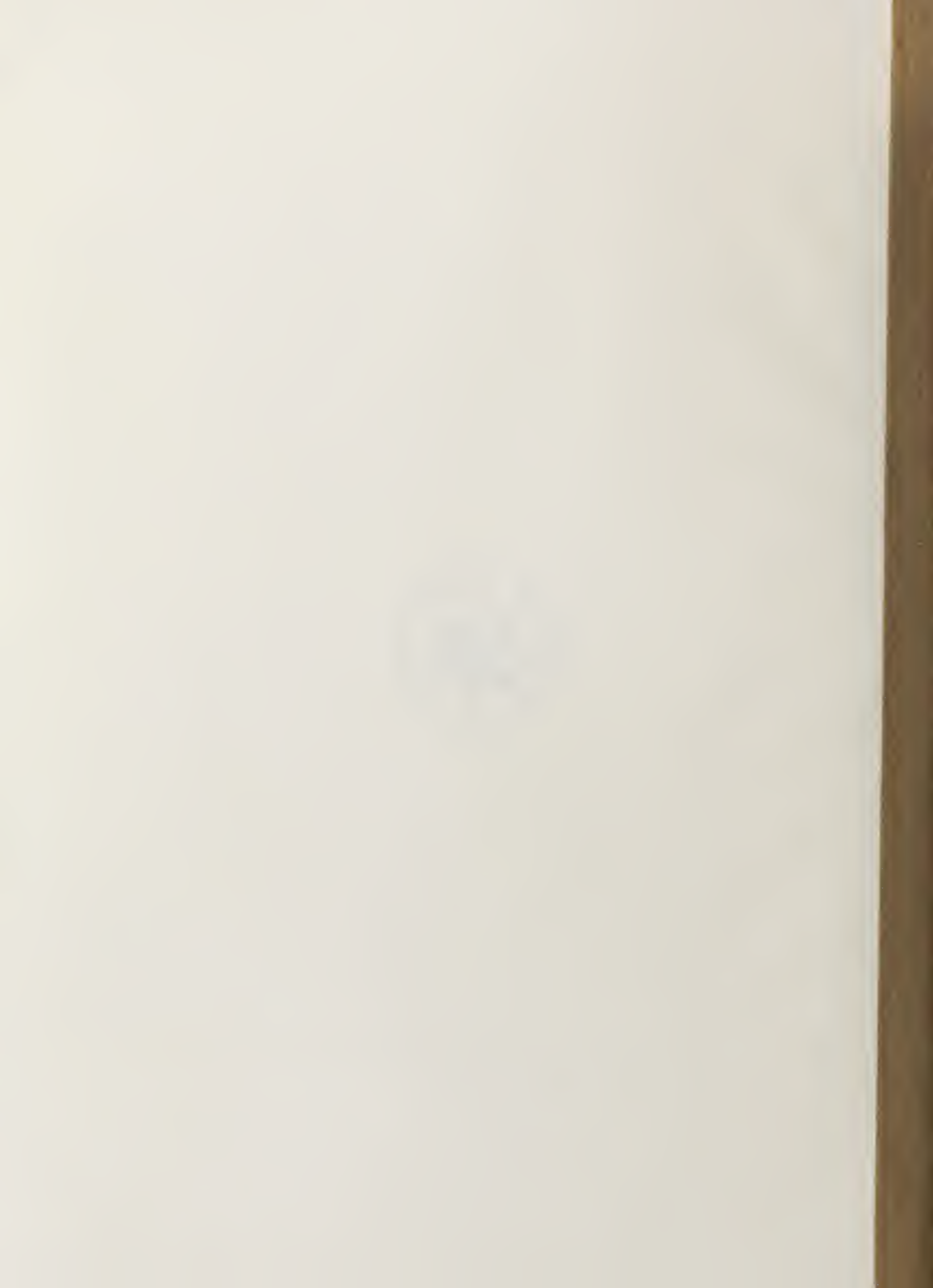
















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